

Iraq to disclose programme within 48 hrs

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq will hand to the U.N. a full declaration on its germ warfare programme either Tuesday or Wednesday, the head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on Iraq, Richard Butler, said Tuesday. Mr. Butler, in charge of dismantling Iraq's prohibited weapons, told a Baghdad news conference, "the Iraqi government will hand over to UNSCOM today or tomorrow, within the next 48 hours, the full, final and complete declaration on Iraq's past biological programme." He made his remarks after concluding four days of talks with Iraq's deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz.

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UNRWA granted \$21 million by donor countries covering year's budget deficit

By Ghaila Alul
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Representatives of 26 donor nations Tuesday pledged over \$21 million in special grants to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) helping the cash-strapped U.N. organisation cover its immediate \$20 million budget deficit until the end of 1997.

Tuesday's pledges might lead the agency to reverse part of the austerity measures it imposed on Palestinian refugees earlier this year, UNRWA Commissioner General Peter Hansen told Reuters following the meeting.

"I am optimistic that we will be able to cancel the move which has been causing fears to the refugees," Mr. Hansen was quoted as saying.

During the meeting, which reviewed UNRWA's 1998-1999 fiscal budgets, Japan pledged \$12.6 million, the United States \$7.5 million, Holland \$1 million, Germany \$1 million, Italy announced \$900,000, and Spain half a million dollars.

Japan's pledge could be considered as an additional contribution to the agency since this country's fiscal year starts in February.

Earlier this year, Japan provided UNRWA with \$15 million in aid for 1996.

Japanese Ambassador to Jordan, Takayuki Kimura, told Jordan News Agency, Petra, that Japan's contribution, which was supposed to be allocated for UNRWA in March next year, could be considered as an additional donation to the agency for 1997.

Although Tuesday's pledges covered the agency's \$20 million budget deficit, it did not cover the real \$70 million budget gap of which \$50 million were reduced by the austerity measures.

Also on Tuesday, Palestinian refugees stepped up their protest campaigns against the agency's decision to freeze appointments of teachers, impose tuition fees on UNRWA school students and reduce basic health services.

Demonstrators, represented by UNRWA school students, parents, political activists, and members of parliament staged a sit-in in front of the agency's offices and shouted slogans urging the implementation of the United Nations resolution 194 which calls for the return of Palestinian refugees to their homeland.

About 300 Palestinian refugees also protested in the Bag'a'a refugee camp in anger against the reduction of UNRWA's services.

The protests came amid fears that UNRWA budget cuts are a step towards permanently settling the



Palestinian women protest outside the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) head office in Amman Tuesday. UNRWA which supports millions of Palestinian refugees in the Middle East had to affect major cuts in its services due to lack of funding (Reuters photo)

refugees in exile. Several banners echoed the Palestinian refugees' sentiment including one that read "UNRWA services are a refugees right, not a gift or a grant."

According to the Associated Press, among the protesters was Palestinian activist Layla Khaled who maintained that UNRWA's programme cutbacks have nothing to do with its deficit.

"These measures were

planned in the 1993 Israel-Palestinian peace agreement to settle the refugee issue according to the interests of Israel," she said.

Representatives of UNRWA staff committees sent a letter to Mr. Hansen saying the agency's decision to cut its services was "unfair and would lead to additional frustration for the refugees which, in turn, would make the chance for peace and stability impossible."

Representatives of Palestinian refugees also met with Mr. Hansen on the sidelines of the donor nation's meeting and urged him to reverse the austerity measures imposed on the refugees in the agency's five areas of operation.

Mr. Hansen said donor nations do not intend to reduce their contributions to UNRWA, but agreed that

(Continued on page 7)

Majali calls on using Arab funds abroad in regional investment projects

SANAA (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Tuesday called for shifting Arab financial resources to investment projects benefiting the Arab Nation.

In a statement to the Yemeni daily newspaper Al-Jumhuriya after visiting the Adeo free zone, Dr. Majali said Arab funds deposited abroad should be encouraged to return to the Arab World for investment in projects, similar to the free zone project in Aden.

He voiced hope that the establishment of a free zone

in Aden and the free zone in Aqaba would contribute to enhancing pan-Arab coordination and cooperation.

Referring to commercial exchange between Jordan and Yemen, Dr. Majali said it is still below the expectations of both countries, noting that the volume of exchange has not exceeded \$32 million.

Dr. Majali said the present era of economic blocs require that Arab countries join their forces to have an economic weight, thus qualifying to occupy a central rather than a peripheral

position in the global economy.

On the meetings of the preparatory committee which were held on Tuesday, Minister of Trade, Industry and Supply Hani Mulki said that the committee concluded a number of protocols and agreements aimed at increasing the volume of trade between both countries.

Later on, Dr. Majali met with Yemeni Lower House Speaker Abdullah Al-Ahmar with whom he discussed bilateral ties and issues of common concern.

Algerian forces smash GIA hideout — press

PARIS (R) — Algerian security forces have smashed the main hideout of an elite force of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) in one of two operations in which scores of rebels died, national newspapers said Tuesday.

Al Watan, widely respected for its security reports, said 70 rebels died in the sweep to destroy the headquarters of the GIA's Al Katiba Al Khadra (the Green Company) of GIA chief Antar Zouabri.

The operation in very rough, wooded terrain around Thala Acha, followed a tip-off 10 days ago by a "repentant" rebel, it said.

"It was known they were there, somewhere in this huge forest between Blida and Medea province. But no one could pinpoint their hideouts and the routes the terrorists used," Al Watan said, quoting a security source.

"Some fortified hideouts were discovered 30 metres underground. Four encampments which provided arms, logistics, training and terrorist operations have been demolished."

"Several women who had been kidnapped were there," it said, adding that the operation ended Monday night.

Algerian officials use the term "terrorist" to mean

armed Islamist fundamentalists who have been battling the authorities since the latter in January 1992 cancelled a general election in which Islamists had taken a huge lead.

The newspaper said the group was an "elite commando" directed by Zouabri personally. It totalled at most around 100 men and was behind most of the massacres in the area. L'authentique newspaper also said soldiers had cut off a huge area in Chrea district and killed more than 147 rebels. Some of them were believed responsible for the Sidi Rais

(Continued on page 7)

Israeli court orders blackout on bombings probe, undercover Israeli agents kidnap W. Bank teacher

Combined agency dispatches

AN ISRAELI court in Jerusalem imposed a blackout Monday on the investigation into two recent suicide bombings in the Holy City, judicial officials said.

The measure covers the arrest of suspects and details of the investigation, the officials said.

Before the court decision, police reported progress in the investigation, establishing a link between the attacks and the discovery last month by Palestinian police of a Hamas bomb factory in Beit Sahur in the West Bank near Bethlehem.

Police say that the five suicide attackers received assistance from accomplices in Arab east Jerusalem.

On Sunday police said that they believed the perpetrators of Thursday's attacks came from abroad and prepared their attacks on territory under Israeli control. Israeli undercover agents kidnapped a Palestinian teacher linked to Hamas from his school Tuesday in front of his students, witnesses said.

Four Israelis in civilian garb entered the village of Alabiat, east of Bethlehem,

in a Volkswagen van and headed directly to the junior high school where Khalil Dhweib works, witnesses said.

They entered the school and, with sidearms drawn, seized Mr. Dhweib. When he resisted, they beat him before dragging him into their van and driving away, witnesses said.

The operation took place before classes began for the day, but dozens of schoolchildren were present on the grounds and saw the incident.

Mr. Dhweib was one of 400 leading figures of Hamas who were exiled into Lebanon in late 1992 by Israeli authorities and stayed a year in a camp at Marj Al Zuhur before Israel allowed their return.

Israeli security forces have made massive sweeps in the West Bank against members of Hamas after the Thursday bombing in Jerusalem.

A Palestinian prisoners' defence group, Mandela, says at least 400 people have been arrested in the crackdown since the attack, which was claimed by Izzeddine Al Qassam, Hamas' military wing, as was a previous July bombing in Jerusalem.

Israel, PNA compete to set Albright agenda amidst feelings of deep crisis

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) are scrambling to influence the agenda of U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright as she makes her first visit to the region in the throes of a peacemaking crisis.

Israel, battered by a bombing last week and on high alert for further strikes, is demanding that Ms. Albright use American muscle to force Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to crush Islamist groups in areas under his control.

The PNA, which arrested tens of suspected Islamists on the eve of Ms. Albright's arrival Wednesday, wants the United States to widen its mission beyond Israel's narrow security agenda.

"She must talk about peace and to do that she must insist Israel implement its commitments as much as we implement ours," Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath said. The PNA accuses Israel's right-wing Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu of trying to bury the 1993 Oslo interim peace accords it signed with the dovish Labour Party predecessor.

After suicide bombers killed five Israelis in a Jerusalem promenade Thursday, Mr. Netanyahu decided he would not hand over any more West Bank land to the Palestinians until they took an iron-fist approach to the guerrillas.

Izzeddine Al Qassam, Hamas' military wing, claimed responsibility for last week's attack, and Israel suspects it stood behind a similar blast in July. Hamas vowed on Monday that suicide attacks would continue.

Israel says Mr. Arafat holds the key to the survival of the Oslo process.

"If there is no commitment by Arafat and the Palestinian [National] Authority to go all the way against the fundamentalist organisations, there is not going to be any future for the Oslo agreement," Israeli Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi told Reuters.

But the PNA, which sees little on offer from Mr. Netanyahu in exchange for a crackdown on Islamists, says the Israeli premier is playing into the hands of militants by calling a halt to peace moves.

"The government of Israel is doing exactly what they want," senior PNA official Faisal Hussein told Israel Television. The PNA insists the bombers came from abroad and that a crackdown could spark civil war. Mr. Arafat sent a message to Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy Monday pledging to fight terrorism.

Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking has been in crisis since Mr. Netanyahu gave the green light to a new Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem, wanted by the Palestinians as capital of a future state.

The recent bombings dimmed Palestinian hopes that Ms. Albright would press Israel to free its settlement building as part of a bid to restore talks on implementing existing deals and negotiating a final peace accord.

In Washington, State Department deputy spokesman James Foley welcomed the PNA's first arrests of militants since the attacks.

"We think any step in the direction of an active, relentless effort to dismantle the security infrastructure [of the extremist groups] in the territories under PNA control is a positive step," Mr. Foley said.

Mr. Netanyahu wants to move immediately into final status talks that will decide the future of Jewish settlements and Jerusalem.

But Mr. Shaath said Mr. Netanyahu could not hope to solve those issues when he had failed to implement simpler interim questions.

"It's like a child who cannot fly a kite and you ask him to fly an airplane," Mr. Shaath said.

The PNA wants the interim accords — which call for Israel to carry out further phased withdrawals from the West Bank by mid-1998 — to be implemented in parallel with final peace talks.

Mr. Shaath said peace moves would go nowhere without the Oslo roadmap.

"If we destroy that and move on to the unknown without terms of reference... I don't think we'll achieve much," he said.



Volunteer rescuers help bring ashore a body recovered by Haitian Coast Guards from the ferry 'La Fierle Gonavienne' which sank off the coast of Montrois Monday. As many as 400 people drowned before dawn on Monday when the packed Haitian ferry nearing port tipped over as passengers crowded to one side to disembark, maritime officials and survivors said (Reuters photo)

Hundreds drown in sinking of Haitian crowded vessel

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — As many as 400 people drowned before dawn Monday when a packed Haitian ferry nearing port tipped over as passengers crowded to one side to disembark, maritime officials and survivors said.

The sinking of the ferry La Fierle Gonavienne (the Pride of Gonave) just off the port of Montrois on the Gulf of Gonave was one of the worst international maritime disasters of the past 30 years.

"The report we have from the Haitian Coast Guard is between 300 to 400 dead," U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer Scott Carr said in Miami.

One survivor told Reuters: "The boat took too water then flipped over. Maybe 40 people who were sitting on top, as I was, fell into the water. I don't think anyone sitting inside survived."

Twenty-six bodies washed ashore shortly after the boat sank 50 metres from the wharf at 5 a.m.

United Nations divers from Canada recovered at least 24 more bodies in the water around the sunken ferry, and saw "between 40 and 50 bodies" in one compartment of the boat, U.N. spokeswoman Patricia Tome said.

Police said there are three such compartments in the

boat. U.N. divers had not yet been able to check the remaining compartments.

"Most of the people are trapped inside the boat," she said. "We do not have an exact figure but the divers said there were a lot and that they are all dead."

Ms. Tome said she did not believe the divers would be able to recover all of the bodies before nightfall, and would have to resume the grim work in the morning.

Haitian Red Cross Secretary-General Regis Marc said only 30 people were so far confirmed to have survived.

Accounts differed on how

(Continued on page 7)

Levy says he warned premier against ending peace process

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and opposition Labour Party leader Ehud Barak warned Tuesday that ending the peace process with the Palestinians would result in a storm of violence which could submerge the entire region.

"The collapse of the peace process would trigger a wave of violence with the Palestinians that could spread region-wide and whose magnitude cannot be foreseen," Mr.

Levy told reporters.

"I warned Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu against this risk, and I am participating in the government in order to ensure that the agreements concluded with the Palestinians will be implemented in their entirety," he said.

Mr. Levy said Sunday that he would dissociate himself from Mr. Netanyahu's cabinet if it buried the peace process set in motion in 1993 by the Oslo agreements on

Palestinian autonomy.

Mr. Barak said Tuesday before the parliamentary committee on foreign affairs and defence that ending the Oslo process "would fatally unleash an armed intifada [uprising] in the West Bank and Gaza Strip."

Mr. Netanyahu last week froze implementation of the Oslo accords in response to two bombings by suspected Islamists in Jerusalem which left 20 Israelis dead.

Palestinians have little hope for future of Middle East peace process

BETHLEHEM (AP) — With faith in the peace process at a low, many Palestinians doubt U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will accomplish anything when she flies in the region this week.

"We didn't give peace only one chance. We gave it 99 chances," shopkeeper Muhsin Amr said wearily Monday, reflecting the widespread Palestinian disillusionment with the Israeli-Palestinian accords.

Frustration has grown as Palestinians watched Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government expand Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Jerusalem, derailing hopes for an independent Palestinian state with Arab east Jerusalem as its capital.

In addition, repeated closures of the Palestinian areas — the most recent imposed after Thursday's bombing in Jerusalem — have thrown thousands of Palestinians out of work and made even everyday tasks like going to school or getting to the doctor difficult.

And many Palestinians, even those who once enthusiastically embraced the Israeli-Palestinian peace accords, doubt Ms. Albright can do anything about it.

The peace process, said Mr. Amr, is like a stillbirth after a long pregnancy. "We are waiting for something that is dead," the 25-year-old shopkeeper said.

During her three-day visit beginning Wednesday, Ms. Albright is expected to pressure the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to do more to fight Islamists blamed for the violence. At the same time, U.S. lawmakers have turned up the heat on the Palestinian leader, with some threatening to end U.S. aid to the PNA.

President Yasser Arafat responded Monday with a pledge to fight terrorism, and his security forces arrested 35 suspected Islamists in the first such sweep since last week's bombing killed eight people in a Jerusalem pedestrian mall.

In a message to Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy, Mr. Arafat said he

would "not tolerate violence and terror, committed either by Palestinians or Israelis."

Israel has arrested about 100 suspected Islamists in West Bank areas still under Israeli control and threatened to freeze the scheduled handback of West Bank land until Mr. Arafat took action.

But Israel's most far-reaching action was closing the West Bank and Gaza Strip — just as a closure imposed after July bombing had begun to be eased. Both the July blast and Thursday's bombing were claimed by Izzeddine Qassam, Hamas' military wing.

The closures have barred tens of thousands of Palestinians from jobs in Israel and restricted travel between West Bank cities. Many West Bank factories have been forced to cut production because workers from surrounding villages could not get past Israeli army roadblocks to reach their jobs.

Nablus Surgeon Husam Johari said operations were being postponed at the city hospital because doctors

and nurses could not get to work.

Jihad Jumaa, 35, from the village of Talouza, said his wife was let through an Israeli roadblock to reach a hospital after she suffered a miscarriage, but he was barred from accompanying her.

"How does this serve security?" he asked bitterly. In Ramallah, the West Bank's most cosmopolitan city, the closure has left normally bustling cafes and restaurants dark. Residents of surrounding villages navigated muddy, pitted tracks to reach schools and jobs on the other side of roadblocks.

"What the Israeli government is doing is decreasing the numbers (of those) who support peace and boosting the popularity of the extremists," said Anwar Maudh, 27, of Hebron. "We are paying the price for something we did not do."

In Bethlehem, the Church of the Nativity and Manger Square are mostly empty these days. Israel has drawn criticism from Christian leaders, including the Vatican, for blocking pilgrims from reaching the biblical city.

A few groups of pilgrims dodged army roadblocks Monday to reach Bethlehem. One group, from Milan, Italy, hiked 3 kilometres after soldiers made them leave their tour bus at a roadblock.

Bethlehem's deputy mayor, Ziad Bandak, said the closures have hurt the city's economy, which relies heavily on tourism, and kept students and teachers from school. Israel insists the closures are security measures intended to keep would-be bombers out of its cities. But few Palestinians believe that.

"They are trying to humiliate us," said Bethlehem merchant Ahmad Qawasm. "It is just revenge."

In the past, Palestinian anger has erupted in stone-throwing protests. But now, Mr. Amr said, "we don't know what it's going to be ... I'm sure it's not going to be stones."



An Israeli policeman questions two West Bank Palestinians as they are made to sit facing a wall inside an Israeli checkpoint leading from Bethlehem to Jerusalem Tuesday (Reuters photo)

Netanyahu denounces desecration of Arab nationalist's grave

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu denounced Monday the desecration by suspected Jewish radicals of the grave of Izzeddin Al Qassam, a Hamas hero.

Police Sunday found a pig's head in a Muslim cemetery in northern Israel where Qassam is buried.

Israel Radio said an anonymous caller claiming to be from Hagai (The Heroes of Israel) said it had left the pig's head and promised revenge against recent bombings in Jerusalem attributed to the Izzeddine Qassam Brigade, Hamas' military wing.

While denouncing Hamas

and its actions, Mr. Netanyahu decried the desecration of the grave.

"Israel totally rejects the path of those who see themselves as followers of this man. However, the prime minister views very seriously the damaging of graves on matter from what religion or faith," Mr.

Netanyahu's office said in a statement.

Qassam is considered to be a revolutionary symbol by both Islamist and leftist Palestinian groups.

Qassam, killed in 1935, fought British occupation of Palestine before the creation of Israel.

Pigs are considered

unclean animals by Muslims and Jews alike.

Earlier this year, a Jewish woman sparked outrage across the Arab World and rioting in the West Bank by distributing posters depicting the Prophet Mohammad as a pig.

New reports of efforts to solve Israeli-Iranian debt dispute

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli officials are optimistic over an attempt to ease tensions with Iran's new leadership by paying off a debt of up to \$1 billion Israel owes Tehran, the Jerusalem Post reported Tuesday.

The newspaper quoted diplomatic sources in both countries as saying that after years of fruitless attempts to resolve the debt problem, chances for a deal have improved greatly thanks to the recent election of a relative moderate, Mohammad Khatami, as Iran's president.

"We are closer to this possibility than two years ago," a senior Israeli official told the newspaper. "We recognise that we owe Iran money, and we're willing to negotiate."

The Post quoted an Iranian source close to Mr. Khatami as agreeing. "A change is

about to take place in the way the government is thinking. We already have signs of this," he said.

The debt concerns an Israeli company, Kassa, which secretly operated in conjunction with Iran under the Iranian regime before the 1979 Islamic revolution to furnish oil to the Jewish state and operate an oil pipeline from the Red Sea port of Eilat to Ashkelon on the Mediterranean.

The debt is estimated at between \$650 million and \$1 billion.

The Post said one proposal being floated is for Israel to repay the debt through private investment in Iranian civilian infrastructure.

A report in the Israeli newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper late last month said another proposal put forward by Infrastructure

Minister Ariel Sharon was to ask Russia to mediate a deal with Tehran.

Sharon discussed the issue with Russian Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin during a visit to Moscow in June, proposing that Moscow purchase the debt from Iran and Israel in turn reimburse Russia, the paper said.

The Jerusalem Post said Israeli officials hoped that repayment of the debt would contribute to reducing Iranian enmity towards Israel and possibly lead to a drop in support from Tehran for Islamists fighting Israel in Lebanon and from the Palestinian territories.

There have been several signs of Israel's interest in improving ties with Iran since Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu came to power in May 1996.

Bahrain arrests three suspected of setting restaurant on fire

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain has detained three suspects accused of setting a restaurant on fire on the island last month, local newspapers said Tuesday.

Quoting an interior ministry statement, they named the three Shiite Muslim suspects as Abbas Khamis Ahmad, Hassan Ali Al Saeed and Ali Abdullah Salman.

The newspapers said the three had confessed before an investigating judge that they had plotted with others to set the restaurant ablaze.

Around 10 masked men attacked the Dairy Queen outlet in Adari

village, about five kilometres southwest of the capital Manama, on Aug. 29, poured petrol inside and threw firebombs causing damage but no casualties.

The attack was the latest in a series to hit the island, the Gulf's financial and banking hub.

More than 30 people have been killed since sporadic attacks and bombings broke out in December 1994 by members of Bahrain's majority Shiite community to press for economic and political reforms. Hundreds have been arrested.

Palestinians in a daily trial to elude Israeli closure

NABLUS (AFP) — They may have been spoiled, they may not have sold, but Amjad Ibrahim got his tomatoes to market past an Israeli closure in what has become a daily trial for Palestinians in the West Bank.

"The important thing is I won the battle and got here to the market," said Mr. Ibrahim, 35, at his stand of tomatoes, most of which were ruined since it took him two days to get from his village past the seal around the West Bank city of Nablus.

Mr. Ibrahim's trip was similar to that taken by thousands of Palestinians each day after Israel Thursday slapped another internal closure on the self-rule cities of the West Bank after yet another suicide attack in Jerusalem.

Mr. Ibrahim left his village of Naseriya, north of Nablus, Sunday morning with 60 boxes of tomatoes picked from his fields, but Israeli soldiers stationed at a checkpoint at the Nablus city entrance turned him back.

He tried again Monday morning with the same result. "Then I vowed I would get to Nablus no matter what the cost," he told AFP.

Mr. Ibrahim took his truck down one of the tortuous dirt roads leading across the hilly landscape towards Nablus away from the checkpoint.

The truck blew a tyre, and Mr. Ibrahim unloaded all the boxes himself to fix the tyre, then loaded them back again. The army imposed the closure, preventing all movement in and out of Palestinian self-rule areas, after the bombing Thursday which left eight dead in Jerusalem, including the three bombers. For Palestinians, the closure was familiar. Israel imposed the same internal blockade after the July bombing in Jerusalem which killed 15 people.

That closure remained in force on the Bethlehem area for a month, longer than the blockades around the other self-rule cities.

An overall closure, preventing Palestinian

workers from entering Israel from the West Bank and Gaza City, has been in place since July 30.

Israel says the closures are necessary to prevent potential bombers from entering Israel and as a punishment to force the Palestinian National Authority to crack down on terrorist groups.

However, Palestinians have found ways to elude the checkpoints and try to go about their daily business, taking wide detours over hills and valleys on back roads and open fields, by car and on foot.

Nasser Qassem, 29, said he found an alternative route to go from his home village of Abud, 30 kilometres north of Ramallah, to the school where he teaches in Silwad village, 18 kilometres west of the town.

He travels by car, to just before the checkpoint at the entrance to Ramallah, then walks through a nearby field out of sight to another car waiting for him.

From there, instead of taking the direct 18-kilometre road where the checkpoints are located, he takes a 36-kilometre by-pass road, built by Israel for use by Jewish settlers, to a point near Silwad.

"It's longer and more complicated. But at least I get to work," he told AFP.

In Bethlehem, egg distributor Abu Ahmad used his mobile phone to direct a truck carrying his egg shipment from the southern town of Hebron through the network of side roads to avoid checkpoints Sunday.

The truck took a newly created dirt road and broke down, forcing Abu Ahmad and the driver to unload 160 cartons of eggs — carefully — to another truck 300 metres away.

According to a report by the World Bank and the U.N. in late August, the latest Israeli closure has caused some \$60 million in losses to the Palestinian economy. It noted that the costs of the internal closure are more difficult to estimate.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:10 Jonny Quest
14:30 Super Dave
15:00 Secrets of Treasure Island
15:30 Spell Binder
16:00 Monsters Today
16:30 Border Town
17:00 French Programmes
19:00 News in French
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Neighbours
20:00 Soldier's Diary
20:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
21:10 Challenges
22:00 News in English
22:30 Land's End
23:15 American Gothic
23:59 End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:52 Fajr
06:11 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:33 Dhuhr
16:06 Asr
18:54 Maghreb
20:13 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifheh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Mukhlis Halaseh 5519220
Dr. Rami Sukkar 856457
Dr. Fadi Al Khatib 865456
Dr. Yousef Faqih 790104
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 890280
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Al Salam pharmacy 63730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632
IRBID:
Dr. Gazi Ta'anneh 250080
Al Quds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Faded Jaber 984549
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
Relative warm conditions will prevail with winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm.

Amman 17/34
Aqaba 24/37
Deserts 15/36
Jordan Valley 22/38

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 35, Aqaba 37 Humidity readings: Amman 22 per cent, Aqaba 39 per cent.

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/52
Khalidi Maternity, 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mnasher Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
08:05 Damascus (RJ)
09:25 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
10:15 Larnaca (RJ)
10:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
15:55 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:40 Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
18:05 Istanbul (RJ)
19:05 Rome (RJ)
19:10 London, Berlin (RJ)
19:30 Paris, Vienna (RJ)
19:30 Frankfurt, Geneva (RJ)
20:10 Madrid Brussels (RJ)
00:15 Beirut (RJ)
01:55 Cairo (RJ)
02:30 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
04:25 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 771101/5
Al-Bashir 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983325
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Ali Nafees Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Eaya Hospital (03)314111

are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights

DEPARTURES

07:00 Larnaca (RJ)
10:50 Rome (RJ)
11:45 Berlin, London (RJ)
11:50 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:40 Casablanca (RJ)
12:45 Istanbul (RJ)
20:30 Colombo (RJ)
20:35 Beirut (RJ)
21:00 New Delhi (RJ)
21:10 Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)
21:15 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
21:30 Jeddah (add) (RJ)

Other Flights
08:35 Doha (add) (RJ)
09:15 Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)
11:00 Sanan, Hudaiddah (IT)
11:00 Al 'Arish (add) (PF)
11:50 Kuwait (KU)
12:00 Jeddah (SV)
13:10 Doha, Abu Dhabi (GF)
13:15 Cairo (MS)
13:50 Tel Aviv (LY)
14:30 Tunis (TU)
15:05 Vienna (OS)
16:20 Algiers (AH)

Other Flights

16:30 Dubai (EK)
17:00 Doha (QR)
19:30 Istanbul, Damascus (PK)
20:40 London (GA)
21:10 Beirut (ME)
21:10 Paris, Damascus (AF)
23:20 Istanbul (TK)
23:25 Amsterdam (KL)
23:30 Athens (OA)
05:15 Ankara (TK)
07:50 Amsterdam (GA)

Royal Wings (RW)

08:45 Aqaba (RW)
10:05 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
10:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
18:20 Tel Aviv (RW)
19:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
22:20 Aqaba (RW)
23:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

Other Flights

07:00 Larnaca (RJ)
10:50 Rome (RJ)
11:45 Berlin, London (RJ)
11:50 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:40 Casablanca (RJ)
12:45 Istanbul (RJ)
20:30 Colombo (RJ)
20:35 Beirut (RJ)
21:00 New Delhi (RJ)
21:10 Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)
21:15 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
21:30 Jeddah (add) (RJ)

Other Flights

21:45 Bahrain (RJ)
21:50 Bombay (RJ)
22:15 Cairo (RJ)
23:45 Sanaa (RJ)
02:00 Muscat (RJ)

Other Flights

06:50 Larnaca (CY)
08:45 Beirut (ME)
08:50 Amsterdam (GA)
09:25 London (BA)
09:35 Doha (add) (GF)
10:00 Damascus, Istanbul (PK)
12:00 Hudaiddah, Sanaa (IV)
12:00 Al 'Arish (add) (PF)
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17:50 Doha (PK)
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21:40 Denpasar (GA)
23:55 Damascus, Paris (AF)
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Charges pressed for murdering w

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NEW SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR: Foreign Minister Faysal Tarawneh Tuesday receives the credentials of the new South Korean ambassador to Jordan, Yung Il Oh (Petra photo)

Committee coordinates women's efforts for the general elections

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Women's Committee for Elections is meeting with women candidates in the Irbid district today in an effort to convince them to nominate only one woman per constituency to improve the chances of women winning seats in the next Parliamentary elections.

The committee, formed last month on the initiative of the Jordanian National Forum for Women, which is chaired by HRH Princess Basma, includes all the government and non-governmental women's organisations in its membership.

According to Awni Bader, Director of the Media Unit at the Princess Basma Women's Resource Centre, the committee is designed to coordinate Jordanian women's movement and efforts for the 1997 Parliamentary elections.

"The committee's role is to contact women candidates running for the same seat to withdraw in favour of the one with the better chances of winning a seat," Mr. Bader said.

At least 25 women have announced that they are considering running for the upcoming elections, with 12 confirmed for the Parliamentary elections.

The 12 are: Aysheh Khawaja (Amman First District); Toujan Faisal and

Emily Nafaa (Third District); Laila Faisal, Hiam Kalimat and Fardous Masri (Fifth District); Eidah Miteq (Balqa); Nadia Bushnaq and Jalileh Hiyasat (Zarqa); Siham Baiyadah (Karak); and Alia Akhu Rashideh and Fatimah Obeidat (Mafrqa).

Mr. Bader told the Jordan Times that the committee, in cooperation with the media unit, where most women candidates are seeking statistical and analytical information regarding the previous elections, has conducted several analytical studies to determine each woman's chance of reaching Parliament.

"We want to unite women's efforts so that they will not fall victims to their own competition and in the end all fail in reaching the Upper House," Mr. Bader explained.

"Unfortunately, our society is male-dominated and still rejects a woman's presence in political life, and there are many obstacles, such as tribalism and traditions, that are hindering women's progress and better representation in Parliament," he added.

So far, only one woman, Toujan Faisal, has managed to secure a seat in House, in 1993. Ms. Faisal was one of three women who campaigned in the 1993 elections.

In 1989, all 12 women who ran for the elections

failed to secure a seat in Parliament.

Women activists have repeatedly blamed the one-person one-vote system, which they state only lessens women's chances of reaching Parliament, and have further described it as "discriminatory, backward, and strengthening tribalism."

Mr. Bader referred to a more successful experience in 1995, when 99 women were appointed to various municipal council posts, which a year later, he maintained, resulted in 13 women being elected to various governments.

"This experience indicated that women were able to prove themselves, and that they are capable of doing the job," he stated.

Mr. Bader further said every effort being exerted to ensure better women's representation in political life stems from the National Strategy for Women, which was formed by the National Forum for Women following several national dialogues focusing on women's priorities and needs in society.

"All efforts stem from Princess Basma's initiatives to form the women's forum, which is trying to increase women's participation in political life and is striving to change society's perception of women," Mr. Bader concluded.

Mutawi says Ghosheh to be interrogated, released soon

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ibrahim Ghosheh, spokesperson for the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, continues to be held for questioning following his statement Saturday that said as long as Palestinian prisoners are held in Israeli jails, his group will pursue armed struggle.

After a regular Cabinet meeting, Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi told reporters that "interrogation of Mr. Ghosheh

was continuing, but he will be released soon."

Dr. Mutawi said the fact that U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is coming to the region indicates that she is carrying specific ideas to revive the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations and ensure the implementation of the previously signed accords.

Jordan will continue to support the Palestinians, and help them face continued Israeli pressure on the domestic front and put the peace process

back on track, he said.

Dr. Mutawi said Sunday's Jordanian-Egyptian-Palestinian summit in Cairo yielded positive results by coordinating the three parties' stand vis-à-vis the outstanding issues before the U.S. secretary's arrival.

In reference to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's call for an Arab summit meeting, Dr. Mutawi commented "I believe such a meeting can be contemplated in the light of the upcoming developments and in view of the

U.S. secretary of state's ideas."

At the Cabinet session, which was chaired by Acting Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour, the ministers were briefed by Dr. Ensour on the results of the tripartite summit in Cairo, and heard a report by Minister of Foreign Affairs Faysal Tarawneh on his visit to Russia with HRH Crown Prince Hassan and his subsequent visit to Spain.

The Cabinet formed Jordan's delegation to a multicultural festival to

be held in Italy between Oct. 4-10, and approved the formation of a delegation to attend a meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to be held in Vienna on Sept. 9.

The Cabinet formed another delegation to take part in an upcoming meeting in Malaysia on disposing of dangerous waste, and one to go to Washington for negotiations with U.S. institutions on questions related to the World Trade Organisation.

Financial seminar to open Sept. 17

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman-based Arab Thought Forum (ATF) and the Arab Society for Economic Research (ASER) are organising a seminar on the development of financial infrastructure in the Arab World, to begin on Sept. 17 under the patronage of HRH Crown Prince Hassan.

The two-day seminar, which will be attended by 60 economists from Jordan and other Arab countries, is expected to review four principal working papers covering economic and financial market issues of concern to Arab states.

The first paper, by former Central Bank Governor Muhammad Said Nabulsi, discusses monetary and financial policies and their impact on the financial infrastructure, according to an ATF statement Tuesday.

The second paper, by Shafiq Akhras from ASER, deals with areas of development for the financial infrastructure.

The third paper deals with the role of the financial infrastructure in the privatisation process, while the fourth paper, to be presented by Iyad Malas, treats financial infrastructure in relation to foreign investments.

Princess Basma opens conference on women, family

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — HRH Princess Basma Tuesday opened a two-day conference under the theme of "Family Relations in Changing Societies — The Position of Women and Family in Islamic and Western Societies."

Princess Basma, who patronised the event, stressed in her opening speech that Arab and Islamic societies depend largely on family values, "which we work on preserving, and at the same time hope that the West could benefit from our Arab and Islamic customs."

The Princess also called on Islamic and Western societies to benefit from better understanding each other and discovering things in common.

Dick de Zeeuw, chairperson of the International Dialogue Foundation, which is organising the event, referred in his opening speech to a 1994 conference on Islamic Revival and the West, which aimed at building mutual understanding, respect, and trust among the Islamic World and the West.

"Acknowledging the differences between the Islamic World and the West, the 1994 conference was convinced that common values are indeed shared and that dialogue



HRH Princess Basma Tuesday delivers the opening remarks of a conference entitled "Family Relations in Changing Societies" (Petra photo)

(between the West and the Islamic countries) should be continued and strengthened," Dr. de Zeeuw told the attendees.

"It is my strong belief that the dialogue facilitates the exchange of different views on the life of individuals, society, and religion, which I believe will pave the way for peace and justice," he stressed.

Chairperson of the conference Andree va Es, stated that "the value of increased female representation in the social dialogue is not just numeri-

cal, but is also about bringing a wider perspective to the debate."

"We must make sure that issues which have a gender dimension and may even put one sex at a disadvantage, are not treated as though they were gender-neutral," Ms. va Es said.

Four major topics will be tackled at the conference, scheduled to end today. The topics include introduction to family relations in changing societies, women and men, rights and policies, and pluriform societies.

Participants at the conference include religious leaders, politicians, and experts from Egypt, Palestine, Sudan, Indonesia, Turkey, Pakistan, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, France, the U.K., Italy, Spain, and Sweden.

The foundation, established in 1989 in the Netherlands as an independent, non-governmental, non-political, and emancipatory organisation, strives to enhance a dialogue that would promote international relations.

Charges pressed against man accused of murdering wife, children to 'cleanse honour'

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Criminal Prosecutor Zuhair Attiyat Tuesday finished preparing charges against a 40-year-old man, who last May shot and killed his wife and four of his six children in Karak, and referred the case to the Criminal Court.

Awad Mohammad reportedly opened fire on his family shortly after midnight on May 13, killing his 35-year-old wife Sumar Salah, and his children Ahmad, seven, Basma, six, Sahar, one,

and Ibrahim, four months. Officials quoted Mr. Mohammad, who turned himself in to police shortly after the incident, as claiming that "he killed his wife and children to cleanse his honour."

The criminal prosecutor pressed three charges against Mr. Mohammad, including five counts of premeditated murder, two counts of attempted murder, and one count of possessing an unlicensed gun.

A judicial source told the Jordan Times Tuesday that the court will set a date for Mr. Mohammad within the

next few weeks.

According to the prosecution charge sheet, the suspect, who was married in 1987 and had resided in several cities and countries during his 10-year marriage, became suspicious of his wife's conduct five years after their marriage.

The sheet added that nine years prior to the incident, Mr. Mohammad started plotting to kill his wife and children, who he believed were not his, and bought a gun for this purpose.

On May 12, Mr. Mohammad's wife suspected her husband's bad intentions,

took her six children, and left the house for her family's home.

"However the defendant followed them, brought them back to his house, locked the doors and windows, and shot his family," the sheet said.

The defendant then left the house, with two of his children from a previous marriage, and on his way to the police station, Mr. Mohammad gave them some money and threatened to kill them "if they did not claim that his wife was bringing men to the house while he was away,"

the charge sheet continued.

The defendant had claimed that a stranger knocked at his house around midnight the night of the incident, then fled when Mr. Mohammad opened the door, prompting him to suspect that his wife was having a relationship with the stranger and that the children were not his.

If convicted on the premeditated charges, Mr. Mohammad could face the death penalty under the Jordanian Penal Code.



Acting Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour Tuesday meets with a Canadian delegation to discuss the current status of public administration in the Kingdom (Petra photo)

Acting prime minister briefs Canadian delegation on 'bloated administration'

AMMAN (Petra) — Acting Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour Tuesday briefed a visiting Canadian delegation on the historical, political, and social factors responsible for the current bloated public administration.

During a meeting at the Prime Ministry, Dr. Ensour told the delegation members, who are currently participating in a scientific week organised by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), that the successive waves of immigrants to Jordan resulted in a high demand for public posts to manage the increasing needs of

citizens. Due to the private sector's discomfort in actively providing services, the government had no alternative but to employ large numbers of people to provide infrastructure services, Dr. Ensour added.

He explained that new changes and regional developments, as well as Jordan's participation in a peace treaty, have prompted the government to consider giving a larger role in providing services to the private sector, leaving the overall planning, organisation, and monitoring to the government. Dr. Ensour said that as

part of measures to trim the administration, the government has decided to cut 10,000 public posts, not create 6,000 posts in 1997, and limit appointments to posts whose incumbents are seconded, granted a special leave without pay, or retired upon their request.

The meeting was attended by the Ministry of Administrative Development's Secretary General Ali Sheikh. RSS President Said Alloush, and a representative from the Canadian embassy.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- * Works by Ali Al Yuzbiki at the Jordan Plastic Art Association, Jabal Wehdeh, until Sept. 16.
- * Fourth Pottery Exhibition by Mahmoud Sadiq and Da'ad Al Mufleh at Hamurabi Gallery, Gardens Street, until Sept. 19 (Tel. 5536098).
- * Painting exhibition entitled "La Radioactive" at the French Cultural Centre, until Sept. 30.
- * Paintings by Palestinian artists entitled "Palestine the Reality and the Dream" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 2 (except Tuesdays).

DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '97 FESTIVAL

- * Graphics by Rifa Nasiri of Iraq, Ziad Dalloul of Syria, and Najia Mehadjji at the South Hall.
- * Paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Qailoka at the Middle Hall.
- * Sculpture, drawings, and paintings by Jordanian artist Rajwa Ali.
- * Works by contemporary Arab artists at the Blue House.
- * Paintings by children of Zarqa reflecting on the problem of pollution at the Byzantine church.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan to attend pharmaceutical conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is taking part in a conference due to start in Beirut next Tuesday focusing on the manufacture of drugs in the Arab World. The meeting is organised by the Arab Union of Pharmaceutical Manufacturing and Medical Appliances, whose president, Nizar Jardaneh, will present a working paper on the impact of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs on the Arab pharmaceutical industry. At least 200 pharmacists from Arab and for-

eign countries will attend the meeting.

Swiss team completes seventh season at Petra

AMMAN (Petra) — A Swiss archaeological team has completed its seventh season of excavation in the ancient Nabataean city of Petra. The team, which started its dig in 1988, continued excavating a residential site, dated to the first century A.D. They postulate that the settlement was ruined by an earthquake that hit the region in the year 363 A.D. Some of the homes uncov-

ered during the dig had walls covered with frescoes.

Women's political workshop opens

MAFRAQ (Petra) — A workshop designed to help Jordanian women participate in political activities started at Al al Bayt University in Mafrqa Tuesday. This workshop, in which 25 local women are taking part, is one of a series of workshops organised by women's groups in the various governorates prior to the upcoming general elections.

Afghan Taleban report repulsing opposition counterattack in north

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghanistan's Islamic Taleban militia said it had repelled a counterattack by opposition forces based in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif Tuesday.

A Taleban spokesman in Kandahar, quoted by the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press (AIP), said troops loyal to ethnic Uzbek General Abdul Malik had launched a counterattack against Taleban forces which captured the town of Tashkurgan, 25 kilometres east of Mazar-i-Sharif, Monday.

He said the Taleban had driven off the attack, killing seven of Gen. Malik's men and wounding several others. Two Taleban fighters were killed. Artillery exchanges were continuing.

Opposition leaders could not immediately be reached for comment and there was no independent account of the fighting.

A Western military source said Gen. Malik retained a tenuous grip on Mazar-i-Sharif, but his position had been weakened by what he called a "fundamental mistrust" among factions in the city.

Taleban forces were also in action north of Kabul, where AIP said at least five Taleban fighters were wounded in overnight clashes on frontlines in the Mir Bacha Kot, Farza and Tangi Bagram areas and on two roads leading north from Kabul.

AIP said 200 Taleban troops had been sent to reinforce frontline positions Monday night and both sides were using heavy weapons in the fighting, which continued into Tuesday.

There was no word on whether the Taleban attack had gained any ground against former government military Commander Ahmad Shah Masoud, whose forces control territory stretching to within 20 kilometres of the Afghan capital.

Taleban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar said Monday his forces had halted their offensive towards Mazar-i-Sharif, the only major Afghan city not in Taleban hands, to give their foes a chance to lay down their guns.

"We have closed all roads leading to Mazar-i-Sharif and I have ordered my mujahideen to stop the operation and ask the opposition to surrender," he told AIP by telephone from his headquarters in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar.

"We have stopped the operation to prevent further bloodshed and see if the opposition also wants that. If the opposition wants bloodshed, then our mujahideen will fight," he said.

The Taleban briefly occupied Mazar-i-Sharif in May

when Gen. Malik allied with them to oust former Uzbek warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum, but were driven from the city with heavy losses after Gen. Malik changed sides again.

A Taleban force from Kabul that had advanced northwards towards Mazar-i-Sharif found its line of retreat blocked by Gen. Masoud and eventually made its way to Kunduz.

The Taleban force now appears to have linked up with sympathetic local commanders in ethnic Pashtun areas and with bands of Taleban fighters who had gone into hiding after their defeat in Mazar-i-Sharif more than three months ago.

The Taleban want to enforce strict Islamic Sharia rule across Afghanistan. They control more than two-thirds of the country, including Kabul, which they took nearly a year ago.

Meanwhile, the ousted regime of deposed Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani said Tuesday it would call an assembly of national leaders to seek an end to the conflict in the war-torn country.

A. Abdullah, Mr. Rabbani's deputy foreign minister, said 11 prominent Afghan personalities will meet next week in Istanbul, Turkey, to prepare the way for a historic Loya Jirga, or grand assembly, in Afghanistan.

The last universally-accepted Loya Jirga was held in 1976, three years before Russia occupied Afghanistan. Another assembly a decade later degenerated into a national controversy because of its dubious composition.

Mr. Abdullah said the personalities, including a representative of exiled Afghan King Zahir Shah, have already met once in Frankfurt.

Mr. Abdullah, leading a delegation to New York for next week's United Nations General Assembly, told reporters that Mr. Rabbani's northern alliance has endorsed the assembly which will seek "national reconciliation."

Ethnic Afghan commanders outside the alliance have also supported the call for a Loya Jirga, the foreign minister said.

But the Taleban Islamic militia, which controls two-thirds of Afghanistan, has not responded to the latest peace initiative, Mr. Abdullah told a group of reporters in the Indian capital.

"There are some elements in the Taleban which want the restoration of peace," said Mr. Abdullah, who is also the spokesman of Mr. Rabbani's coalition of mainly non-Pashtun ethnic groups based in the northern Panjshir valley.

U.S. presses H. Kong on election rules

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States pressed Hong Kong Monday to adopt broadly representative election rules as its leader began his first visit to Washington since China took control of the territory on July 1.

Tung Chee-hwa, hand-picked by Communist China to lead Hong Kong, met Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott Monday and was due to hold talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton at the White House Friday, State Department deputy spokesman James Foley said.

Mr. Foley said the visit was a sign of Mr. Tung's "desire to maintain close relations with the United States and it's a sign on our part that we take seriously Hong Kong's autonomous

status in the wake of revision" from British to Chinese control.

The United States planned to "stress our commitment to the maintenance of the way of life that the people of Hong Kong have enjoyed," he said.

Also, U.S. officials would stress "in so far as political issues are concerned our interest in seeing that legislative elections are held as soon as possible and in particular that ... Hong Kong ought to adopt election rules that (are) free, fair and fully representative of the Hong Kong people," he said.

In a move denounced by the United States, Britain and other democracies, a new legislative council hand-picked by Beijing was put in place when China took con-

trol of Hong Kong, replacing an elected legislature. Mr. Tung and other Hong Kong officials have agreed to hold new elections in the first half of next year but there are concerns over who will be allowed to run and vote.

Despite such concerns, Mr. Foley said U.S. officials will tell Mr. Tung of "the satisfaction that we felt since the handover in July with the fact that Hong Kong's autonomy continues and there is a vibrant political and media life in the area."

Also, U.S. officials are encouraged that Hong Kong's "economic picture remains good in spite of the difficulties in the financial system in Asia over the last few months," he said.

Women make better bosses, survey says

SYDNEY (R) — Women are seen as more successful bosses than men because they work harder and their feminine approach is better suited to the modern team-based office, according to an international survey released Tuesday.

The survey also found women managers were more likely to encourage new ideas and ways of doing things, and better at praising their staff.

The study was conducted by the Sydney-based consultancy firm DDI Asia Pacific, which specialises in executive testing and selection.

The firm surveyed 1,332 employees and managers among companies in Australia, the United States, Canada and New Zealand.

The survey results do not show men are ineffective as empowering leaders," DDI consultant Linda Bisnette said in a statement.

"However, these results help to discredit the myth that women are unsuited to leadership positions and suggest that men might have something to learn from women about 'empowering leadership'."

Women as a group scored better than men in eight of the 11 categories on which respondents were asked to rate their leaders. They were equal in the three others.

The survey found the genders were equally as effective in helping mediate conflicts, letting employees make their own decisions, expressing confidence in an employee and "not blaming employees."

But women were found to be more capable at such things as soliciting new and better ways of doing things, inspiring workers to achieve higher goals and being "open about unpleasant facts."

Ms. Bisnette said the survey findings reflected the shift from the old authoritarian style towards a more supportive leader, and said men could be trained to take a more "feminine" approach to leadership.

"The extra effort many women put into their jobs may be one explanation for their greater leadership success," Ms. Bisnette said.



Earl Spencer, the brother of Diana, Princess of Wales, walks through a carpet of flowers on the island where his sister is buried on the Althorp estate. The flowers were among those left in tribute to the princess at the gates of Althorp House by thousands of mourners during the past week (Reuters photo)

Diana's island grave carpeted with flowers

LONDON (R) — The first pictures of the final resting place of Princess Diana were published Tuesday showing a flower-strewn island grave on the Spencer family estate where she used to play as a child.

Diana, 36, was buried privately away from the prying eyes of the media which, in her brother's words, made her "the most hunted person of the modern age."

But Earl Charles Spencer allowed one photographer to take pictures of his sister's grave in the middle of an ornamental lake on the family's rural Althorp estate in central England.

"There is a carpet of flowers four metres wide stretching across the island ... you cannot see the grave itself because it is completely submerged under the flowers," said photographer David Jones, from The Press Association, the British domestic news agency.

"It really is a tranquil haven, a place of calm," Mr. Jones added.

The report nevertheless

backed the royal family. The approval rating soared to 82 per cent if Diana's eldest son, Prince William, were to become the next king rather than his father Prince Charles. Almost a third wanted the queen to step down in William's favour.

But 39 per cent feel less favourable towards the royal family since Diana's death.

Crowds are still flocking to Diana's Kensington Palace home in London, where the carpet of flowers stretches as far as the eye can see.

The flowers, estimated to weigh 10 tonnes, are expected to be gathered up Thursday when the freshest blooms will be sent to hospitals.

The remainder will be used as compost on the gardens of Kensington Palace but palace officials have promised that the tens of thousands of notes, poems and messages will be collected and passed on to Diana's family.

The Mori poll, published in the sun tabloid, said 73 per cent of those surveyed

backed the royal family. The approval rating soared to 82 per cent if Diana's eldest son, Prince William, were to become the next king rather than his father Prince Charles. Almost a third wanted the queen to step down in William's favour.

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U.S. mediator helps blockaded Serb hardliners

BANJA LUKA, Bosnia (R) — Bosnian Serb hardline leaders claimed they were being held hostage in a Banja Luka hotel Tuesday after it was surrounded by police loyal to President Biljana Plavsic.

The group included Momcilo Krajisnik, the powerful Serb member of Bosnia's inter-ethnic presidency and Prime Minister Gojko Kljickovic.

Both men are close to indicted war criminal Radovan Karadzic whose ruling SDS party has been locked in a two month power struggle with Ms. Plavsic after she accused its leadership of corruption.

Police wearing camouflage fatigues surrounded the hotel Bosnia in central Banja Luka before dawn and SDS adviser John Zametica told reporters inside: "We are not confined to the hotel, we are hostages here."

The Bosnian Serb News Agency (SRNA), which is controlled by the hardliners, alleged that Mr. Krajisnik and his group were "brutalised" and their cars con-

fiscated by police Monday night after an SDS rally against Ms. Plavsic in Banja Luka.

Following an intervention by General Jacques Klein, U.S. deputy to the international high representative in Bosnia, sources in the hotel said the hardline politicians would be allowed to leave but that their special police bodyguards would have to lay down their weapons.

The rally attracted only 150 hardline supporters after NATO peacekeepers and Ms. Plavsic's police prevented the SDS bringing paid demonstrators from eastern Bosnia by bus to attend.

Five pro-Plavsic police were hurt, two of them seriously, in checkpoint incidents.

Peacekeeping spokesmen said their troops had turned back most of some 30 buses which tried to break through a U.S. roadblock at Modrica, east of Banja Luka. A crowd of about 1,000 hurled stones at the Americans.

Scores of buses and cars were halted by British troops at Derventa on the

road to Banja Luka. International mediators warned the hardliners Monday that patience was running out with their efforts to derail the peace process in Bosnia.

Gen. Klein denounced the presence of "armed thugs" at the rally organised by the hardliners after eyewitnesses said some of the SDS demonstrators were openly carrying guns.

Gen. Klein, who vowed to stay in Banja Luka until calm was restored, told reporters: "This is a terrible indictment against the people who organised this rally. Armed thugs running around town have nothing to do with politics and it's time to put a stop to this."

Pro-Plavsic demonstrators taunted Mr. Krajisnik and Mr. Kljickovic with shouts of "thieves, thieves," and forced them to retreat to their hotel for safety.

Ms. Plavsic met Mr. Krajisnik in the presence of Patriarch Pavle of the Serbian Orthodox Church during the rally, in an attempt to find a way out of the political impasse.

Political sources said Mr. Krajisnik refused an offer by Ms. Plavsic to share national access to Bosnian Serb Television, which now has rival studios in Banja Luka and in Pale, outside Sarajevo, where the hardliners are based.

Both Mr. Krajisnik and Ms. Plavsic rejected Patriarch Pavle's suggestion that they should put themselves up for reelection to test their personal support when the Serb entity holds parliamentary elections next month.

The peacekeepers allowed Ms. Plavsic's police to deploy an armoured car in front of her offices as a precaution and Ms. Plavsic's security commanders mobilised 1,600 military and civilian police.

International mediators feared that a confrontation had been engineered to affect the outcome of a campaign for Bosnian local elections next weekend whose success is vital to the next stage of the peace process.

Talks tilt N. Ireland towards new peace — Britain

BELFAST (R) — Britain said Sinn Fein's admission to round-table talks later Tuesday would mark a shift towards a new era of peace for troubled Northern Ireland.

Paul Murphy, minister for political development in the province, said the IRA's political wing would be automatically admitted to talks after its leaders affirm support for a non-violence code that other parties have already adopted.

"The significance I am sure is that we are now entering a new era... in the sense that the gun is going out of politics in Northern Ireland and that here Sinn Fein is ascribing to those principles of non-violence, of democratic government ...," he said in a BBC Radio interview.

"The whole purpose of

this (process) is that there is a huge shift in the way people operate," Mr. Murphy said.

"I think what we are experiencing today is a big shift and if that shift means that the republican movement and the (pro-British) loyalist movement will themselves review what's going on in a positive sense so that the ceasefires continue, there is nothing wrong with that," he added.

Compromise was key to agreeing new arrangements that would satisfy pro-British and pro-Irish sections of the community, said Mr. Murphy, one of Britain's representatives at the talks.

Tuesday's session comes ahead of the launch of full-scale negotiations set for Sept. 15, which remain clouded by uncertainty because of protests by Protestants

Unionist groups who say Sinn Fein cannot be trusted. Three key mainstream Unionist parties will not be at Tuesday's session. Two have pulled out of the talks process completely and the powerful Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) has yet to decide whether to face Sinn Fein on Sept. 15.

The UUP, echoing Unionist anger about London giving Sinn Fein a ticket to the talks without a surrender of Irish Republican Army guns, dismisses Tuesday's session as a charade.

"The subscription of Sinn Fein to the Mitchell principles will completely lack credibility. Actions matter much more than words," the UUP said in a statement.

The non-violence principles are named after talks chairman, George Mitchell, a former U.S. senator.

Sinn Fein accuses Unionists of making impossible demands for urgent guerrilla disarmament as a cover for avoiding thrashing out with them new structures under which both sides can co-exist.

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams said his party is sincere in searching for an end to decades of conflict over rule from London.

"We enter these negotiations as an Irish republican party... to engage energetically in the search for a lasting peace settlement in Ireland, based on justice, equality, freedom and democracy," he said.

The talks will be the first direct negotiations between Sinn Fein and British officials since 1921, when the seeds of today's conflict

Peru rescuers save Machu Picchu from fire

LIMA (R) — Hundreds of rescuers saved the Inca Citadel of Machu Picchu Monday from a huge brush fire that blazed up a steep mountainside and threatened to engulf Peru's most popular tourist site, authorities said.

"The Citadel is in no danger of being caught up in the flames because 400 officers have cut down a ring of trees around the ruins so that the fire cannot get up there," local government spokesman Hernet Moscoso told Reuters.

The Ancient Mystic Centre perched on the saddle of a densely forested mountain, 9,000 feet above sea-level, was wrapped in

smoke from 25-foot high flames burning on the slopes of the steep mountain.

The blaze, which started Saturday, gained strength late Sunday and spread up the mountain to cover a total of about 40 acres.

But as it paused in a hollow on the mountainside Monday, there were signs prevailing winds would carry the flames away from the direction of the spectacular Citadel, about 1,150 kilometres southeast of Lima, officials said.

Local civil defence officials, who suspended all tourist visits to the site, laid out piping from low-lying villages to carry water up

toward the fire and douse the flames.

Fire-fighters continued their work despite tremors from a small earthquake registering 4.2 on the Richter Scale which shook the region, where the lower Andean slopes merge into the southern Amazon jungle.

UNESCO has proclaimed Machu Picchu — one of Latin America's most famous tourist attractions — a world heritage site.

In 1912, U.S. archaeologist Hiram Bingham discovered the ruins, which archaeologists believe were an important religious centre of the pre-Columbian Inca Empire.

Bombs found under Spanish politicians' cars

MADRID (R) — Bombs were found under the cars of a mayor and a town councillor in southern Spain Monday, two days after Basque ETA guerrillas killed a policeman with a car bomb, officials said.

Police conducted controlled explosions of the two devices, one discovered under the car of Jose Maria Gomez, mayor of Rincon de La Victoria, and the other under the car of town councillor Francisco Ro-bles. Both are members of the Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar's Popular Party.

"Fortunately the car bombs have not achieved their objective but reveal the irrationality of those who do not want peace," said Angel Acebes, general coordinator of the Popular Party.

Authorities said an anonymous call in the name of ETA warning that three more bombs had been planted in the same town ap-

peared to have been a hoax. Mr. Gomez said he owed his escape to pure luck. The previous night he had argued with his wife about who should use his new car, and had agreed to use his wife's car instead.

After Mr. Gomez heard that a bomb had been found under Mr. Ro-bles's car, he telephoned his wife and told her to stay indoors while police came.

Neither politician had received threats against his life, and it was unclear why officials in the small town, with a population of 17,000, were being targeted.

ETA is fighting for an independent state encompassing parts of northern Spain and southern France, and most of its attacks have taken place in the Basque country.

On Friday night ETA killed a member of Spain's National Police Force outside his home in the Basque

town of Basauri by exploding a bomb under his car. Tens of thousands of Spaniards took part in protests Saturday to condemn the killing, the first blamed on ETA since 29-year-old Popular Party town councillor Miguel Angel Blanco was kidnapped and murdered in July.

On Monday, politicians joined more than 1,000 demonstrators in central Madrid to protest against ETA violence. Protesters chanted "Basques — yes, ETA — no," a slogan heard more often since six million people took to the streets after Blanco's death.

In further acts of violence over the weekend, a group of more than 50 hooded youths throwing Molotov cocktails burned down the headquarters of the Basque Nationalist Party and another small nationalist party in the northern Basque town of Zizurkil before dawn Sunday.



seriously burned

China blasts Pa

China's foreign ministry Monday blasted Pakistan for supporting terrorism and for being a haven for terrorists. The ministry said Pakistan was a "major source of terrorism" and that it was "responsible for the deaths of thousands of people." It called for Pakistan to "stop supporting terrorism and to take concrete steps to prevent terrorism from spreading."

in Lanka rebel

Rebels in Sri Lanka's north-eastern province said they had killed a police officer and a soldier in a recent attack. The rebels claimed to have captured a police station and a military camp. They said they were fighting for the independence of the province. The Sri Lankan government has been fighting a long-running civil war with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The rebels are part of the LTTE's network of armed groups operating in the north-eastern province.

Mexico rebels de

Rebels in Mexico's southern state of Chiapas said they had killed a police officer and a soldier in a recent attack. The rebels claimed to have captured a police station and a military camp. They said they were fighting for the independence of the state. The Mexican government has been fighting a long-running civil war with the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN). The rebels are part of the EZLN's network of armed groups operating in the southern state of Chiapas.



Firemen extinguish a fuel truck after it collided with a train at an automatic rail crossing in Saint Antoine du Breuilh, near Bordeaux. Twelve people were killed and 43 injured in the crash (Reuter photo)

3 seriously burned in French train crash that killed 12

BORDEAUX (AFP) — Three people are in a critical condition suffering from bad burns after a passenger train ploughed into a fuel truck in southwest France sparking a huge explosion and fire, police said Tuesday.

Twelve people died and a total 43 were injured following Monday's collision between the passenger train and a fuel truck on a level crossing in the village of Port-Sainte-Foy in the Dordogne department, north-east of Bordeaux.

Among the injured, eight are badly hurt and three who received serious burns are in a critical condition. The driver of the lorry, a tanker carrying 30,000 litres of fuel, was operated on during the night, police said.

The bodies of seven people trapped in the wreckage have already been released

and five more were expected to be released Tuesday, police added.

The fuel truck exploded into flames after the collision, and the fire engulfed both the train and a neighbouring house. The driver of the train was among those killed.

According to one witness, the truck driver said at least three times, before being taken off to hospital: "I didn't see the barrier."

The accident was the most deadly train crash in France for six years. On Oct. 17, 1991, 16 people died in a collision between a sleeper train and a goods train at Melun southeast of Paris.

France's worst recorded rail disaster of recent years occurred on June 27, 1988, when two suburban trains collided in the underground part of the Gare de Lyon in Paris, killing 56 and injuring 56.

China blasts Panama over Taiwan leader's visit

BEIJING (R) — China lashed out at Panama Tuesday, saying it had damaged China's sovereignty by inviting President Lee Teng-hui of rival Taiwan to a conference on the Panama Canal.

An international conference opened Sunday in Panama city to try to reassure canal users the strategic waterway would be in safe hands once Panama takes control in 1999 from the United States.

However, the presence of Taiwan's Lee drew China's wrath.

"In reality they are providing a venue and opportunity for Taiwan separatists and have damaged our nation's sovereignty," Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang told a regular news briefing.

"We express our regret about this," Mr. Shen said.

China had always supported Panama's struggle to regain control of the Panama Canal, he said.

Panama is one of about 30 countries, mostly in Africa and Central America, that recognise Taiwan, viewed by Beijing as a rebel province since the Communists drove nationalist forces

there at the end of the Chinese civil war in 1949.

Mr. Shen accused Panama of maintaining diplomatic ties with Taiwan for financial reasons and urged the Central American nation to support Beijing as the rightful government of China.

"Some countries might have economic difficulties and seek aid from Taiwan but... at the same time as seeking aid, they cannot sacrifice principles," Mr. Shen said.

Taiwan, a major investor in Panama, paid \$800,000 to help fund the conference, organisers said.

Panama hoped the conference would help to propel it onto the international stage by attracting some 20 heads of state, but it took a more humble shape after a Chinese and United Nations boycott forced Panama to drop the meeting's political focus.

Taipei has used the promise of generous financial aid to win diplomatic allies in its struggle for a higher international profile.

Beijing employs similar tactics to try to isolate its island rival, and has vowed to invade if Taipei declares independence.

Sri Lanka rebels attack mineral ship in northeast

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels attacked and set fire to a ship loaded with mineral sand Tuesday, triggering retaliation from the navy which sank eight rebel boats, naval and shipping officials said.

The ship had loaded 29,000 tonnes of mineral sand anchored off Pulmodai, north of the Indian Ocean island's eastern port of Trincomalee, when it was attacked by boat by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), they said.

At least seven people were killed, according to initial reports.

This was the third attack by rebels on civilian ships since July and the second on a ship carrying mineral sand in the northeast since August last year.

The Panama-registered vessel, Cardinality, which belongs to the Chinese state shipping group Cosco, was scheduled to dock at Trincomalee Tuesday before sailing to Rotterdam, said Shelton Perera, managing director of Roton Vander (Shipping) Ltd, the ship's agent in Colombo.

He said the ship's accommodation quarters and engine room had been severely damaged by fire.

"The ship has flooded and is listing by the stern. We are trying to contact a salvage company, which has a boat in the vicinity, to try and rescue the ship," Mr. Perera said.

Hours after the attack, government troops boarded the vessel and a Sri Lankan port authority barge was being sent to help douse the fire, Defence Ministry officials said.

Initial reports said two soldiers guarding the ship and five of the 60 labourers helping to load the ship were killed in the attack.

Five of the 34 Chinese crew and six soldiers were said to be missing. Four soldiers and five workers were also wounded in the attack.

officials said.

Officials in Trincomalee, 160 kilometres east of Colombo, said naval gunboats had reached the spot soon after the attack and engaged LTTE boats in a battle, destroying at least eight of them.

Naval headquarters in Colombo confirmed the incident but said they were awaiting details.

In August last year, the rebels blasted a Philippine-registered cargo ship with an underwater device while it was loading mineral sand at Pulmodai, wounding some Sri Lankan crew members.

In July this year, the rebels attacked and burnt a ship used for transporting refugees to the northern Jaffna Peninsula from western Mannar.

No refugees were on board at the time of the attack, but the crew of 20 Indonesians and seven Sri Lankans were captured by the rebels. The Indonesians were later released but there is no word yet on the fate of the Sri Lankan crew.

On July 17, Tamil Tiger rebels attacked and seized a North Korean food ship after it had unloaded food and other essential items on the Jaffna peninsula.

Oce North Korean crew member was killed during the attack and the remaining 37 were later released to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The ship, which was anchored in the guerrilla-controlled waters off the northeastern town of Mullaitivu, was released on "humanitarian grounds" last month.

The LTTE are fighting for a separate homeland for minority Tamils in Sri Lanka's north and east. The government says more than 50,000 people have been killed to the war, now in its 15th year. The LTTE say the toll is higher.

Mexico rebels descend from hills, march on capital

LA REALIDAD (R) — Hundreds of Mexican Zapatista rebels and supporters kicked off a five-day march Monday to take their message of rebellion from the jungles of southern Mexico to the urban jungle of Mexico City.

Masked rebel leader Subcomandante Marcos said goodbye to a group of about 300 unarmed supporters who descended from this rebel stronghold in the jungle to kick off their first ever mass foray to the Mexican capital.

The group joined hundreds of other Mayan Indians from the highlands of southernmost Chiapas state, where the Zapatistas launched a brief rebellion in early 1994 but have been stuck in on-and-off peace talks with the government since then.

Organisers hoped the march would be a huge show of support for the Zapatistas demands for Indian rights, democracy and an army withdrawal from indigenous communities in the surrounding mountains.

Mr. Marcos, wearing his trademark ski-mask, Mao-style cap and bandoliers, handed over two folded flags to supporters, one the red, white and green banner of Mexico, the other a black and red Zapatista flag.

Truckloads of supporters of the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) were seen driving down the windy mountain roads to San Cristobal. About 50 trucks were seen ferrying about 1,000 people, many wearing multi-coloured tra-

ditional Indian garb or the Zapatistas' ski masks.

Their distaste for the army was evident when the caravan parked outside a military post and protesters punched fists into the air shouting "EZ-L-N".

More than a thousand Zapatistas and supporters were to set off from the colonial city of San Cristobal de Las Casas Tuesday on a 1,200-kilometre trek to Mexico City set to conclude Friday.

The Zapatistas also hoped to restart peace talks that broke down last year. Since then the guerrillas have been surrounded by the Mexican army amid a tenuous ceasefire.

Prospects for peace were dealt a setback, at least psychologically, with news reports in Mexico City Monday that an anti-Zapatista paramilitary group has begun organising in the heart of guerrilla territory in Chiapas.

The so-called anti-Zapatista Indigenous Revolutionary Movement has been reportedly seen in several municipalities in Chiapas state and is backed by local supporters of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, daily newspaper Excelsior reported.

"It's very alarming if it's true," Juan Banuelos, a peace envoy for the National Mediation Commission known as Consi, told reporters in San Cristobal. "It's very significant and the federal government has to respond."

Cambodian opposition urges king to reconsider U.N. team

BANGKOK (AFP) — An exiled Cambodian opposition leader Tuesday urged the country's king to reconsider his decision to nominate top officials of strongman Hun Sen's regime to represent Cambodia at a key U.N. debate.

Outspoken Sam Rainsy — a supporter of the king's son, ousted First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh — called on King Norodom Sihanouk to allow the United Nations to decide who Phnom Penh's legitimate representative was.

The call came after the aged monarch signed letters of credentials for Mr. Hun Sen and First Premier Ung Huot — who replaced the prince after Mr. Hun Sen ousted him in a weekend of bloody violence in July — to attend the General Assembly debate in New York next week.

"Using the credentials which you recently signed, Mr. Ung Huot, the puppet prime minister illegally nominated after the coup d'etat on July 5 and 6, 1997, has written to the U.N. secretary general," Mr. Sam Rainsy wrote in a statement received here.

He said Mr. Ung Huot had told Kofi Annan that he would head the Phnom Penh delegation to the 52nd General Assembly meeting.

Mr. Ung Huot also asked Mr. Annan "not to allow into the United Nations premises... Prince Ranariddh, the legal prime minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia."

Prince Ranariddh has announced he will attend the U.N. session at the head of another Cambodian delegation to oppose Mr. Hun Sen's effective seizure of sole power in Phnom Penh after the prince's ouster in two months ago.

Mr. Sam Rainsy warned the monarch that allowing Mr. Hun Sen and his hand-picked new First Premier Ung Huot to be Cambodia's sole representatives at the meeting could be fatal for democracy in the country.

If Mr. Hun Sen's "Communist" regime "manages to seize Cambodia's seat at the United Nations — a prelude to international recognition of Mr. Hun Sen's coup regime — the rule of law and democracy could be extinguished for a long time in our country."

This was why, Mr. Sam Rainsy wrote from Paris, Prince Ranariddh "as legal first premier recognised by His Majesty the King, must be able to represent another Cambodia from that of the gangster Communists who are destroying" the country.

The deposed prince has blasted the delegation approved by his father, terming it "unjust" and led by "Pol Pot II and a puppet." The king, who has said he still recognises the

prince as premier, moved to quell criticism that his actions had hurt the prince's resistance movement, saying the people would choose their own leaders.

King Sihanouk said the fight between his supporters and Mr. Hun Sen's could not be solved at the U.N. which he said has been inconsistent in choosing who it recognises.

The notorious rebel Khmer Rouge meanwhile Tuesday — using similar language to Mr. Sam Rainsy to describe Mr. Hun Sen — called on the United Nations to "discuss in great detail" the Cambodian crisis during next week's meeting.

It asked the General Assembly to take "adequate measures to oppose the Communist aggressors who staged a coup d'etat and dissolved the results" of the 1993 elections which brought Mr. Hun Sen and the prince into a power-sharing government.

It also urged the world body to call on the "puppet aggressors" in Phnom Penh to respect the constitution, the 1991 Paris Peace Accords, the common law and the rights of the people.

Meanwhile, a senior opposition party official Tuesday was foud guilty of conspiring to ouster Premier Hun Sen's brother-in-law last year.

A Phnom Penh municipal court judge sentenced Sun Vong Vannak to 13 years in prison for plotting the murder of Kov Samuth, who was gunned down outside a Phnom Penh restaurant last November.

Mr. Vannak was chief security officer for the Khmer Nation Party (KNP) led by Mr. Sam Rainsy.

Mr. Vannak's accomplice in the murder conspiracy, Prum Meanth, was sentenced to 10 years in prison while the gunman, Sok Kasem, who confessed to the murder, was sentenced to 15 years.

Mr. Vannak denied involvement in the murder and protested his innocence after the verdict and sentences were announced.

"It's not fair, the court is corrupt," he shouted to reporters as policemen led him out of the court in handcuffs.

The lawyer defending Mr. Vannak and Mr. Prum Meanth, who also said he was innocent, also said the verdict was unfair.

"This decision is not fair. The killer was the only one who accused my clients. There was not enough evidence that my clients had any involvement with the murder," Peung Yok Hiep told reporters.

The judge said all three could appeal the verdict within two months.

N. Korea, Japan sign accord on Japanese wives return

BEIJING (R) — Red Cross officials from Japan and North Korea Tuesday signed an agreement in Beijing on the details of home visits by Japanese wives living in the Stalinist state.

"We have signed an agreement," one Japanese diplomat said.

Home visits by some of the estimated 1,800 Japanese women who moved with their husbands to North Korea between 1959 and 1982 were agreed in principle by Pyongyang last month, but the details had yet to be fixed.

Negotiations began Saturday, but stalled in the early hours of Monday after North Korean Red Cross officials declined to name the members of the first group of Japanese to be allowed to visit their homeland, sources close to the talks said.

The talks had resumed Tuesday morning. The agreement finalised all details covering visits by a first group of the wives, many of whom have not been heard from in decades, the diplomat said. It was not clear what negotiations would be needed for a second group to visit.

Earlier reports said the first visit could go ahead as early as this month.

Pyeongyang had refused to supply a list of names of the women who would make up the first group, and this had been expected to delay the homecoming until next month or later, the Kyodo News Agency quoted Japanese sources as saying.

Wrangling also emerged over the details of how to pay for the visits, the agency said.

North Korea's agreement last month to allow home visits by the wives marked an easing of a dispute that had long hampered attempts to improve ties with Japan.

Tokyo has cited Pyongyang's refusal to let the wives return to Japan as one reason why it refuses to send food aid to ease the looming famine threatening millions of North Koreans.

While food assistance is not directly linked to the wives' visits, dealing with such issues could help clear the way for aid, Japanese officials have said.

Computer fixed on Mir space station

MOSCOW (AFP) — Cosmonauts on the troubled Mir space station succeeded overnight in restarting the central computer, which broke down early Monday, the Russian Space Centre said Tuesday.

"The situation on board the space station has returned to normal," space center spokesman Valery Lyndin said, after the three cosmonauts patched up the computer's interface unit.

The computer broke down Monday for the second time in less than a month, throwing the orbiting space station off balance and sending ground control scrambling to find out why.

Unlike a similar breakdown on Aug. 18 this time Mir remained correctly orientated towards the sun thanks to the coupling of the Soyuz and Progress spacecraft with the stricken vessel.

A proper flight path is vital to keep Mir's solar energy panels oriented towards the sun and thus supply the station with electricity.

Russian cosmonauts Anatoly Solovoyov and Pavel Vinogradov and NASA colleague Michael Foale are expected to take several hours to restart equipment, switched off Monday to save electricity.

It will take a day to return to normal and on Wednesday they can continue their work in the Priroda module, Mr. Lyndin said.

This latest breakdown to beset the orbiting Russian Space Station follows last Saturday's emotional six-hour spacewalk by Solovoyov and Foale when they reestablished orientation of two solar panels on the Spektr module, damaged after the collision on June 25 with the Progress spacecraft — the worst accident in Mir's 11-year history.

However, they failed to locate a hole which has been causing the depressurisation of Spektr since the collision.

Russian Space Centre experts are presently examining film footage taken by the cosmonauts during their spacewalk to try and establish the cause of the problem.

Another spacewalk is planned for October following the meeting between Mir and the U.S. shuttle Atlantis on Sept. 28 and the arrival of the Progress Cargo craft on Oct. 4, Mr. Lyndin said.

American cosmonaut David Wolfe who will replace Foale will be on board the Atlantis.

U.S. Navy removes nuclear missile submarine commander

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Navy said Monday that the commanding officer of one of the nation's 18 giant Trident nuclear missile submarines had been removed from command of the vessel because of morale problems aboard.

Commander Michael Alfonso, head of one of the two crews that alternate in operating the 170-metre USS Florida, was removed on Aug. 11 "because he was unable to foster an effective command team, so necessary to the success of the U.S. submarine force," a navy statement said.

"There were morale problems aboard," added one navy official, who asked not to be identified.

The navy said it was believed to be the first such removal of a Trident commander, but that the step did not affect the commander of the Florida's other crew, known as the "Golden Crew."

The Florida is based at Bangor, Washington, along with seven other so-called "Boomers" as the potent Tridents are known. Ten Tridents are also based at Kings Bay, Georgia.

Submarine service is high-pressure duty, especially on Tridents designed to make long cruises under the ocean armed with up to 24 long-range, multi-warhead nuclear missiles — a major part of America's nuclear arsenal.

The navy did not provide details of problem attributed to Cmdr. Alfonso, a New York native and 25-year navy veteran who joined the service as an enlisted man and has worked his way up through the ranks.

Cmdr. Alfonso is appealing the order by navy Rear

Admiral Paul Sullivan, commander of Submarine Group Nine in Bangor. Meanwhile, he has been assigned to temporary duty as commander of the U.S. Navy base at Seattle, the navy said.

"To the best of our knowledge, this is the first Trident submarine commander who has been removed from command," said navy Lt. Cmdr. Beci Breton, a spokeswoman for the submarine group in Bangor, said in response to questions.

Lt. Cmdr. Breton said Cmdr. Alfonso had the right under navy rules to appeal his reassignment, which was an administrative procedure and did not involve punitive measure other than removal from his command.

Cmdr. Alfonso was commander of the 160-man "Blue Crew," one of two crews that alternate in operating the massive craft.

Biko's killers seek amnesty in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Five South African policemen who beat black activist Steve Biko to death in 1977 in one of the apartheid era's most brazen crimes will ask Wednesday for absolution from the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The white former officers decided in January to come clean, marking one of the biggest successes yet for Nobel Peace laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Truth Commission as it tries to expose human rights abuses and heal the wounds of apartheid.

During his life Biko gained prominence as a torchbearer of black consciousness in South Africa, but it was his brutal death at the hands of security police inquirers that made him a world-renowned icon of the anti-apartheid struggle.

The commission is to hear the policemen's amnesty request in the Eastern Cape city of Port Elizabeth where the interrogation of Biko

took place. It has said that the men involved are offering to give a full account in return for immunity from prosecution.

Biko's family have long campaigned for his killers to be brought to justice and opposes amnesty for them.

The family have appointed veteran human rights lawyer George Bizos, the man who defended President Nelson Mandela in his 1964 trial when he was sentenced to jail for life, to state their case.

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Miracle of the sane and peace-loving

IT IS worrying to note that while the Arab side holds out the olive branch and calls, on the eve of the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to the region, for the faithful implementation of the Oslo accords and the extension of the peace process to cover the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, Israel persists in raising the stakes and increasing tensions. This week's trilateral summit in Cairo grouping His Majesty King Hussein, President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat made a timely and balanced intervention to save the peace process from collapse when they called for the implementation of the Oslo pacts, the maintenance of peace and security for all and the ending of all unilateral actions that aim to preempt the final status talks.

The minister of foreign affairs, Faysal Tarawneh, reflected faithfully the views of the Arab World when he urged the U.S. to adopt a "balanced initiative" that addresses not only the security concerns of the Israelis but also the political aspirations of the Palestinians. "We know the importance of the security issue," said Dr. Tarawneh, "but security is not the whole story."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, on the other hand, continues to send ominous messages to both Washington and the Arab capitals at this critical and delicate juncture. Mr. Netanyahu's disdain for the Oslo accords has become too apparent to be taken lightly. His brazen attack on the Labour Party for signing those accords suggests that it is extremely difficult to do business with him at this stage. "The members of the Labour Party should lower their eyes in shame and shut up now that it has become clear that the agreement signed by the government endangered the security of Israeli citizens," said Mr. Netanyahu's spokesman Monday. The same spokesman even went to the extent of calling for the trial of those responsible for the Oslo accords. Israeli Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled was even more arrogant when he called for the arrest of Mr. Arafat.

If this is the domestic political scene in Israel, then not even a minor miracle by Ms. Albright would be able to revive the peace process. The only miracle in the offing could be the possible intervention of all sane and peace-loving Israelis to save their country from the reckless policies of their government. We saw a glimmer of that hope when Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy declared that he and his party would have nothing to do with any reckless plan by the prime minister to bury the Oslo accords and create a dangerous void instead. Israeli Public Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani is so utterly distraught with the domestic climate in his country that he called in an open policy statement for a national unity government, and by implication, discredited the current one. "The current situation is tearing the Israeli people apart," warned Mr. Kahalani without mincing words.

Mr. Netanyahu came close to being toppled on more than one occasion and could do so in the future. Many Israelis are openly against his policies and are wondering where he is leading them. The U.S. secretary of state can still and should bring pressure to bear on the Israeli government if not for the cause of peace then for avoiding perpetual conflict and war.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Rai daily criticised Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for blaming the suicide attacks in Jerusalem on Palestinian President Yasser Arafat saying that the Palestinian leader will by no means play the role Antoine Lahad plays in south Lebanon, serving as a seotioel to protect Israel, and he can by no means wage war on Hamas. Munes Ruzzaid said that although Mr. Netanyahu realises that the suicide bombers came from abroad, he is still insisting on blockading the occupied Palestinian lands and the self-rule areas. Furthermore, said the writer, the Israeli premier and his government realise that occupation of southern Lebanon, like occupation of Palestine, has become very costly for the military and indeed, leaders of Israeli Labour and Likud parties have now called for withdrawal from Lebanon and from the Golan Heights. Perhaps, said the writer, the U.S. is advising Israel to withdraw from Lebanon and Syria so that it can focus attention on perpetuating the occupation of Palestinian lands. This proposal, said the writer, could be forthcoming from the U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, during her projected visit to the region, in a bid to reduce the pressure which has been mounting on Mr. Netanyahu. But he warned that this suggestion would be very dangerous and the Arabs must be ready to confront and to mobilise their backing for the Palestinian leader and his people by all available means.

Washington Watch

ACCESS: Meeting Arab immigrants' needs

By Dr. James J. Zogby

THIS IS not a story in the headlines. Nor is it one of the usual stories about problems facing the Arab American community.

Rather, it is a story about what a group of Arab Americans are doing to improve the quality of life in the U.S. for tens of thousands of their countrymen from the Arab World.

During the past decade, more than 200,000 new Arab immigrants came into the U.S., making them one of the country's ten most rapidly growing immigrant groups.

Unlike the first wave of Arab immigration, who came in the early part of this century, the current wave comes from literally every part of the Arab World (while the first immigrants came primarily from Lebanon and Syria) and they fly into major cities across the U.S. (while the first immigrants arrived mainly in New York City). Large concentrations of recent Arab immigrants to the U.S. can be found in Detroit, Los Angeles, New York, Cleveland and Houston.

In each of these cities many of the newly arrived people from the Arab World face a myriad of problems adapting to their new environment. These difficulties of adaptation are not unique to Arab immigrants. All ethnic groups face the same problems. For immigrants with many members already established in the U.S. or there with advanced academic degrees and English language skills, the problems of settling are less severe. But for tens of thousands of others, especially those who are poor, uneducated and with no knowledge of the English language, the problems of getting started in the U.S. can be quite difficult.

Recent Arab immigrants to the Detroit area, especially those with the greatest needs, have an important institution to help them become settled and once settled to help meet their basic physical, educational and social needs.

ACCESS (the Arab Community Centre for Economic and Social Services) is one of the truly great institutions founded by Arab Americans. Begun twenty-seven years ago in Dearborn, Michigan, ACCESS today has

become nationally recognised as one of the premier social service centres of its kind in the U.S.

In 1971, ACCESS was started with a few hundred dollars, a one-room office, and a commitment to provide needed services to recent immigrants. Today ACCESS has an annual budget of \$3.5 million, five offices throughout the Detroit area, and a record of providing services to over 35,000 individuals each year.

Among these services are:

- Healthcare, including a full range of family medical services to pregnant mothers, new-born children, and the elderly;

- Social services, including emergency food and shelter, translation and interpretation, family counselling, summer youth recreation programmes and drug and alcohol prevention programmes;

- Employment services, including employment counselling, training programmes and day-care;

- Education programmes, including English language programmes and citizenship preparation;

- Community advocacy, including advocacy on behalf of Arab American social and educational needs and programmes educating non-Arabs about the culture and history of the Arab people.

In the process of carrying out these and other services for the Arab American community, ACCESS has become recognised as an important centre for Arab American political activity as well. Its annual dinner draws over 2,500, including all of Michigan's political leadership. Its last dinner featured a videotaped message from President Clinton congratulating ACCESS on its 25 years of service. During the Bush administration ACCESS also received presidential recognition, receiving President Bush's "1000 points of light" awards which he awarded to institutions and individuals making unique and significant contributions to the country.

ACCESS' importance as a centre can also be seen in the fact that frequently when national

political leaders visit the area, ACCESS is on their itinerary.

In 1991, the Arab American Institute (AAI) and ACCESS worked together in an effort to help launch similar centres around the U.S. We convened a meeting in Washington called "Meeting our people's needs" and sent a researcher to several major U.S. cities to conduct community needs assessments — to determine what kinds of services were required to meet the needs in each area. Out of this experience ACCESS-like institutions have been started in New York City and Cleveland. Today there are also efforts to launch social service centres for recent Arab immigrants in Chicago, Houston and California as well.

The story of ACCESS is important for many reasons. Not only is it a testament to the vision and commitment of its founders and the continuing hard work of its leadership and staff — it is an Arab American success story.

The ACCESS story is the story of what is happening in the U.S. today. The past decades have seen dramatic increases in the size of all immigrant ethnic communities in the U.S. This growth has created new political and social problems, not the least of which is a backlash against many groups and pressure to cut government supported social programmes.

ACCESS has shown that through organisation and political power, groups can define their rights and win respect. In the past decade, we have worked with ACCESS to increase voter registration and organise effective get-out-the-vote efforts in the Arab American community. Those efforts have benefited the Arab American community by increasing its political clout and protecting its ability to serve the needs of its most important members.

This organisational and political strength has also provided ACCESS and Arab Americans with the ability to fight against discrimination and fight for increased recognition of Arab culture and values.

ACCESS is, in short, an organisation Arabs should know and be proud about.

Zionism — the root of the Palestinian tragedy

By Pascal B. Karmy

ONE HUNDRED years ago, in August 1897, the first Zionist Congress was held in Basle, Switzerland, at the invitation of Theodore Herzl. This congress of Jewish Zionists had succeeded in the long run to establish the Jewish state in Palestine. In his diaries, Herzl predicted at that time that the Jewish state would be created in fifty years' time. In effect, Ben Gurion, the first prime minister of Israel, proclaimed the establishment of the state of Israel on May 14, 1948.

One of the reasons Zionism developed in the 19th century was the prevailing anti-Semitism in Europe, the manifestation of which was the Dreyfus Affair. Alfred Dreyfus (1859-1935), a Jewish army captain in the French army, was convicted in 1894 of betraying French secrets to the Germans. The Dreyfus case aroused and enhanced anti-Semitism and although evidence against him had been forged, the army was reluctant to admit its error. The original conviction against Dreyfus was in the end quashed in 1906.

Herzl (1860-1904), an Austrian journalist, was aroused by the Dreyfus affair and the mounting anti-Semitism in Europe. He therefore propagated the idea of Zionism as a political movement to solve the problem of anti-Semitism, by finding for the Jews a national home of their own. Initially, one or two African countries were suggested as a national home, but later deliberations in the Zionist Congress chose Palestine as the place where the conception of Zionism was ultimately to be materially fulfilled. As a result, the seeds of the Palestinian tragedy were sown and culminated in 1948, when thousands of Palestinian Arabs were brutally expelled from their homeland.

It is necessary to point out here that political Zionism, as conceived by Herzl and other Jews, is different from spiritual Zionism. The fundamentals of the latter are primarily cultural and spiritual, and its origins are to be found in the idealistic and religious sentiments which had always inspired Judaism as a religion.

The Arabs have no quarrel with religious Zionism. Political Zionism, on the other hand, is not a religious but a chauvinistic nationalist movement whose chief exponents are Herzl, Abad Ha'im,

Cahaim Weizman and other political Zionist leaders. Indeed, there are Orthodox Jews who do not believe in political Zionism and do not even recognise the state of Israel as the state which true Judaism expects. They are sympathetic to a spiritual home in Palestine, but not to a Jewish political entity.

The Zionist Jews would not have been able to establish their state in Palestine, on the land and at the expense of the Arab majority, had there not been other factors and circumstances which had largely contributed to this achievement. One of them is certainly the infamous British Balfour Declaration of 1917.

"We may well sympathise with the aspirations of a religion which invested with divine sanctions a return to the little region that the Jews had temporarily ruled. But it is quite impossible to admit any rights over the Holy Land to Zionists of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries who in most cases do not descend from Jews who ever saw Jerusalem."

The Zionists seized the occasion of World War I to gain British support for the realisation of their ambition by offering, in return, Jewish support for the Allied war aims. This declaration, which was addressed by Lord Balfour, the then British foreign minister, to Lord Rothschild, states in part: "His majesty's government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people." This declaration created one of the most explosive problems in the Middle East and is considered by many as one of the principal causes of the

Palestinian tragedy and of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

British pro-Zionist politicians, such as Balfour, Lloyd George and Churchill, promoted the issuance of the declaration as they were imbued with the distorted fundamentalist conceptions of the Old Testament of the Bible, especially as regards the "return" of the Jews to where they call their ancestral homeland. Lord Sydenham of Combe put this question of "return" in its proper perspective when he said, in May 1930 in "The tragedy of Palestine, the nineteenth century and after": "We may well sympathise with the aspirations of a religion which invested with divine sanctions a return to the little region that the Jews had temporarily ruled. But it is quite impossible to admit any rights over the Holy Land to Zionists of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries who in most cases do not descend from Jews who ever saw Jerusalem."

Having obtained the British government's declaration of sympathy with the Zionist aims, the next step for the Zionists was to secure implementation by Great Britain. They succeeded by providing in the British mandate of 1922 that the mandatory power shall have responsibility for putting into effect the British declaration of 1917, namely to actually establish in Palestine a national home for the Jewish people. The British government accomplished this by allowing an unabated mass immigration of Jews to Palestine and directing the whole mechanism and branches of the Palestine government from 1922 up to the date of the partition of Palestine, in 1947, towards this end.

While the British government played a great role in creating the Jewish state, it ignored the solemn written promises made in 1915 to the Sheriff of Mecca (later King Hussein) as representative of the Arabs, by Sir Henry McMahon on behalf of the British government, for the independence of the Arab countries, although the Arabs had greatly contributed to the war effort in 1914-1918.

General Allenby commander-in-chief of the expeditionary force which wrested Palestine and Syria from the Ottoman rule, had declared that the Arab help had been "invaluable." And even Lloyd George, the then British prime minister (notwithstanding his

Zionist sympathies), had frankly stated that: "On the basis of McMahon's letters to King Hussein the latter had put all his resources into the field, which had helped us materially to win the victory."

Palestinians are the victims of Zionism, the basic structure of the state of Israel whose present government is trying to obliterate the national rights of the Palestinians, including their

right to establish their own state on their ancestral homeland and is discarding the provisions of the Oslo accords which, in my view, contain the minimal rights of the Palestinians.

The writer was an advocate in Palestine in 1944 and, for many years, legal officer at UNRWA headquarters in Beirut and Vienna. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

LETTERS

All should have rights

To the Editor:

THOSE WHO followed the comments of Israeli officials in the aftermath of last Thursday's triple explosions in West Jerusalem heard one common message: full blame on Yasser Arafat as if he were the one to answer for Israel's security.

Whether it was Israel's ambassador to Washington, Netanyahu's political advisor, David Bar Elan, or Netanyahu himself, the almost insipid argument sounded out of context.

In fact, the same theme has been echoed for quite a while now as an excuse for Israelis to evade settling their overdue contributions to the peace efforts.

They have been busy with subjective rhetoric on why Arafat has not been doing enough to crack down on Hamas and Islamic Jihad. What do the Israelis expect from Arafat? What are, in their opinion, adequate efforts that deserve their blessings?

If curbing Hamas is that vital, why did not the Israelis do the job during their occupation of those Palestinian areas later handed over to Arafat? For 27 years, their occupation army and intelligence were in full control. nevertheless, during all that time they did not, or could not, destroy Hamas or any resistance efforts directed against these occupation forces.

Do they now expect Arafat, who does not even possess a fraction of their means and capabilities, to do a job they themselves failed to do?

West Jerusalem lies completely under the control of Israel. Who is responsible for its security, Arafat or Netanyahu?

Moreover, Israel should be the last to blame anyone for the bloodshed of innocent people. Ever since its creation it has been both the innovator and the master of this practice. Innocent Palestinians, men, women and children, have for long been victims of Israeli atrocities and Nazi-like practices.

The Israeli propaganda is not a positive contribution to the peace process. If the Israelis are earnest about peace, they must realise, and accept, that the Palestinians are as much concerned about their own security and well-being as they are. They cannot seriously expect to maintain peace and well-being for themselves while keeping their peace partners insecure and enslaved to their whims and single-minded fixation on security. They must realise that to be secure and live in dignity is not an exclusive Israeli divine right.

The Israelis must relinquish the occupied territories and allow the Palestinians to exercise their natural right to self-determination. Controlling other people's lives and destiny will not bring peace; neither will distorting issues, manipulating events and fishing in troubled waters.

Only when the Israelis come to terms with these basic human and political issues, and begin to translate them into the practical steps of paying their dues can our region start hoping for peace.

George I. Musleh,
Amman.

Tribute to a great lady

By Ali Kassay

LAST WEEK the world said good-bye to one of the most remarkable women of this century. So much has been said and written about her, that one feels there is hardly anything to add, except for stating the obvious. Yet, one would be remiss if one did not express one's admiration of this great lady and the enormous loss that is felt by her departure.

As detached as one may try to keep oneself, it is impossible not to be touched by this real life story. A normal girl, still in her late teens, receives her calling. She responds and believes, for a while at least, that she has found her vocation in life. Instead, she finds herself flung in an environment very much alien to anything to which she was accustomed. Very strict rules of discipline governed every aspect of her life, down to the very last detail. There was to be no room for privacy. No moment of weakness or human frailty would be tolerated.

Nevertheless, she was not daunted by the prospect of a lifetime in such regimented surroundings. Instead, she tried to make the best of it with great resolve and force of character.

Then she was not contented with fulfilling the already enormous responsibilities entrusted to her by virtue of her position, for this was truly a unique lady who clearly believed that everyone has a duty to do his utmost towards making this world a better place to live in. She was only in her thirties then, but she was not afraid to set out on her own to break new grounds, undaunted by the displeasure of the most powerful establishment to which she belonged.

Without as much as a thought to herself, she set out to assume yet greater responsibilities above and beyond the call of any duty. She sought the needy, the destitute, the helpless, those who needed help most, and she tried to assist them, comfort them and to give them courage as they struggled with their afflictions.

Some of these people, of course, suffered from a most highly contagious disease. Many of them were beyond medical help. But she believed that one can be beyond human help. She had the courage to reach out to them, a human touch that made them feel wanted and cared for, a caress that put her own life at risk, but which helped these people to live their last moments in peace and dignity.

She gave of herself and of her courage without a single thought to fame or reward. Theo, even when recognition came, and when hers became a household name in all parts of the globe, she was unaffected by the publicity, and continued in her selfless way, as if the greatness in which she was not born, but which she achieved, had to be thrust upon her. Her simplicity and sincerity confounded the critics. The media, once sceptical about her motives for doing charity, are now unanimous in their praise of her work. Saturday's national funeral, her country's way of paying tribute to her memory, is most richly deserved.

Indeed the world has lost one of the greatest human beings that lived, not only in this century, but at any time. Her memory will live on, as a shining light guiding us to the straight and narrow path of righteousness.

Of course, you have guessed that I am talking about Mother Theresa.

Features

German beyond

By Ram C. Khouri

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German Protestant Institute expands its contributions in Jordan beyond its traditional excellence in archaeology and history

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

WHERE IN Amman would you find German, other European, North American and Arab scholars engaged in issues as diverse as Bronze Age urban water systems, the investment climate in Jordan, stone conservation at Petra, irrigating with saline water in the Jordan Valley and Christian-Muslim religious dialogue?

These and other aspects of ancient and contemporary Jordan are among the subjects that scholars are addressing year-round at the Amman office of the German Protestant Institute of Archaeology which is commemorating the completion of two decades of work in Jordan. The Amman Institute was established in the late 1970s as a branch of the much older, Jerusalem-based German Protestant Institute for Archaeology of the Holy Land, which had opened its doors at the end of the 19th century after a visit to Jerusalem by the Emperor Wilhelm II.

The German Protestant Institute (DEI is its German acronym) has always been respected for its scholarly research in the fields of history and archaeology, with a particular focus on biblical archaeology — a trait common to most European and North American scholars in this area before the 1970s. In recent years, the DEI, again like its colleagues and sister institutions from other countries, has significantly broadened its fields of scholarly interest; it is now involved in excavations of sites from the Neolithic, Chalcolithic, Nabataean, and early Islamic-to-Ottoman periods, along with its traditional focus on Bronze and Iron Age sites corresponding to Old Testament periods, and sites dating from the Classical-Roman-Byzantine eras.

More novel perhaps is DEI's lateral professional extension in Jordan to host scholars addressing issues of contemporary importance, such as investment promotion, irrigation and cultural encounters between the Middle East and

the West. When DEI launched its twice-a-year newsletter last year, the institute director, Dr. Hans-Dieter Bienert, told the Jordan Times in an interview here recently: "We named the newsletter Occident and Orient because we wanted to stress that our role in promoting greater interaction and understanding between our two regions of the world went beyond the strict limits of archaeology and history."

The DEI is almost totally funded by the Evangelische Kirche of Germany, and operates in Jordan from a building it owns opposite the University of Jordan, built in the late 1970s with funds donated by the Volkswagen Foundation of Hannover, Germany. The facility includes work areas for scholars, residential quarters for seven people and a multi-language library with over 5,600 volumes, maps and nearly 10,000 slides and photographs.

The institute's earliest fieldwork in Jordan in the 1970s was conducted under the aegis of its first directors, Ute Wagner-Lux and August Strobel, whose interests focused on Umm Qais and the Madaba-to-Zara area flanking the northeast Dead Sea coast — work that still continues today. Such continuity over time is one of the strengths of DEI and the other international institutes in Jordan, which tend to sustain professional research projects over a long period of time because of their physical presence in the country. This increases the amount and value of the scholarly research they do, and also promotes deeper linkages with Jordanian scholars and institutions.

The DEI's other directors before Dr. Bienert were Ernst Axel Knauf, Thomas Weber and Susanne Kerner, each of whom continued the institute's work in the Zaza and Umm Qais regions but also initiated new projects in other regions and historical eras. Dr. Bienert has continued this tradition. The institute is still excavating and conducting studies in Umm Qais, with projects in different parts of the ancient city headed by Prof. Dr. Adolf Hoffman of Conbus Technical University, Dr. Thomas Weber, Anna-Christine Janke, and Ute Wagner-Lux and Karel J.H. Vrieten.

DEI is also involved in new projects throughout the country. Dr. Bienert and his colleague Hans Georg Gebel from the Free University of Berlin have directed the first season of excavation at the Neolithic village site of Ba'ja, near Petra. Nabataean gods are being studied by Helmut Merklein and Robert Wenning, of the University of Bonn. Dr. Manfred Lindner and his team from the Nurnberg Natural History Society are continuing their surveys of the greater Petra region, and Dr. Roland Lamprecht from Freiburg University has joined forces with Dr. Ziad Al Saad of Yarmouk University to explore the Iron Age site of Tell Jihfah near Irbid. DEI has also assisted the Germany-based American scholar Dr. Gary Rollefson and his colleagues in fieldwork at prehistoric sites in Wadi Shu'eb and Azraq.

Another novel and important aspect of DEI's presence in Jordan has been its willingness to step into the debate about the importance of consolidating and protecting antiquities sites. This is a particularly timely challenge in Jordan, in view of the possible threats to sites from the rapid increase in tourism and the construction of new facilities. DEI has provided the ministry of tourism and antiquities with detailed proposals for the development of tourist facilities at Umm Qais in a manner that safeguards the integrity of the site. It has also not hesitated to speak out about possible environmental threats to the site from the development of tourist facilities.

Dr. Bienert recently noted that "archaeology is sometimes seen as business, as a source for quick and easy

income. This attitude does not take into consideration the need of the antiquity site itself, and often leads to severe damage to it. Antiquity sites, if carefully dealt with, can be well integrated in tourist development projects. As archaeologists we must always be concerned with the fate of the sites we excavate after the excavation ends. We should no longer be able to leave an excavation without — at least — considering its future use, taking into consideration also a site's importance to the people of the country."

Practising what it preaches, so to speak, the DEI has long provided a model of the linkages between excavation and conservation, with the work it has done at Umm Qais. Largely with German government funding and the support and assistance of the Department of Antiquities, DEI has renovated several late Ottoman period complexes that now serve as archaeological dig houses and offices, a museum and visitor facilities.

One of the ways that DEI works to promote greater cooperation in this field is by undertaking joint efforts with other institutions. It has co-sponsored lectures and field trips with the Jordanian Friends of Archaeology Society, worked closely with the Jordanian Department of Antiquities and the Jordanian-German Project for the Establishment of a Conservation and Restoration Centre in Petra, held evening discussions with the Council of the German Evangelische Kirche in Amman (for example, on cult and religion in the Early Neolithic period), and routinely promoted fieldwork and publications by other international institutes in Jordan.

Visiting scholars and associated fellows from Germany and other countries spend time at the institute to conduct fieldwork or pursue research. The most recent scholars' subjects have included Umm Qais antiquities studies, water sector planning and social projects in Jordan, the excavations at Abu Sneis (a Chalcolithic site near Amman), foreign investments in Aqaba, forest policy and tourism development in Jordan, and irrigation in the Jordan Valley. The institute also hosts and provides logistic support for recipients of one-year travel scholarships awarded by the German Archaeological Institute.

Its two most recent newsletters include brief reports about work by scholars from Jordan, the United States, England, France, Lebanon, and Germany. The newsletter itself was launched to increase awareness of DEI's work and to strengthen links with Jordanian and international institutions. The newsletter is available for free from DEI (tel. 842924) and is also accessible electronically in Jordan, at the Friends of Archaeology folder in the E-Community conference of the NETS system.

Another way that the institute promotes German contributions to Jordanian and Middle Eastern archaeological research around the world is through its publications. Complementing the scholarly reports and journal articles that DEI-affiliated scholars have published is a series of books that DEI has published in recent years from Amman, entitled The Near East in Antiquity: German contributions to the archaeology of Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and Israel. Four volumes of lectures have been published to date, jointly with the Goethe Institute in Amman and a Jordanian publishing company, all edited by Susanne Kerner.

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Just uncovered by a German-directed dig at Ba'ja, near Petra, are these domestic structures dating from some 9,000 years ago, in the Neolithic period (Photos courtesy of DEI)

Hundreds drown in sinking of Haitian crowded vessel

(Continued from page 1)

many people were on board, making it unclear how many may have reached shore safely.

The ferry's manager said its capacity was 400 and it carried only 260, while Sylvain Chane, a local official from La Gonave, told Reuters 276 tickets were sold, not including children.

A ticket collector earlier told Reuters that 800 people boarded and police said there were 800-900 passengers.

U.S. officials in Port-Au-Prince said the 18-metre-long ferry had a maximum recommended capacity of 80 people.

The captain of the boat, a Cuban named Ramos Ingen, was accused by some survivors of locking many passengers in the bowels of the vessel. He was arrested by local police, held for his own security and then released.

"We did not realise he may have locked all those people inside," said St. Marc police officer Alain Charles.

U.S. Ambassador William Lacy Swing issued a statement expressing sympathy on the "tragic accident." The ambassador made a gift of \$25,000 in the name of the U.S. government for disaster assistance.

Ferries and buses in Haiti are notorious for piling on passengers regardless of the dangers. The poorest country in the Americas, Haiti's transportation infrastructure is in

appalling condition and the ferries plying the coast are a popular way for traders, vendors and peasants to get around.

The ferry had sailed from La Gonave Island through the Gulf De Gonave to Montrouis on the western shore of Haiti. Montrouis is near the town of St. Marc, which is about 80.5 kilometres north of Port-Au-Prince.

U.N. personnel from the Haiti Peacekeeping Force spearheaded the rescue effort. Two U.N. helicopters and a U.S. Coast Guard chopper scoured the sea from above and small boats took to the water to hunt for survivors.

Simon La Pointe, mayor of La Gonave's main city Anse A Galets, said the passengers included a youth soccer team and several police officers returning from a party.

"You could hear the people yelling for help from the shore," a doctor from a local hospital told Radio Metropole.

Officials of the Haitian Marine and Navigation Service sent a team to determine whether the boat was overcrowded. They expected the probe to be finished within a day or two.

In the biggest Haitian ferry disaster of recent years, the Neptune sank in February 1993 about 80 kilometres west of Port-Au-Prince with an estimated 800 to 1,500 passengers aboard. The final death toll was put at more than 500.

UNRWA granted \$21 million by donor countries covering year's budget deficit

(Continued from page 1)

these donations should be raised to counter the demands of the natural increase in refugee population.

"I have been working to get more funds from the donors," Mr. Hansen told refugee representatives.

Among the proposals to alleviate the plight of the Palestinian refugees, the representatives suggested that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) takes responsibility of the Palestinian refugees since UNRWA "is not capable of solving their problem."

Mr. Hansen told the representatives that UNRWA "provides more dollars for its refugees than UNHCR."

"You are better off with UNRWA and we are trying very hard to overcome this crisis," said Mr. Hansen.

During Tuesday's donor meeting, Director of the Palestinian Affairs Department, Ibrahim Tarshih, said three countries which host the majority of refugees — Jordan, Lebanon and Syria — agreed to reject any reduction in the volume of quality of services by UNRWA such as fees imposed on Palestinian school children.

The three countries also called

on donor nations to increase their participation so as "to meet the increased number of refugees, inflation and rising prices," said Mr. Tarshih.

He reiterated Jordan's stand on UNRWA's cut-backs, saying the Kingdom refuses the austerity measures imposed on Palestinian refugees and demands that the world shoulder its responsibility to the refugees until their problem is solved.

Jordan, as a primary host nation, has this year spent around \$350 million in the form of infrastructure, health, education and social services to the refugees in the country, an amount that is almost equal to UNRWA's budget for 1997, Mr. Tarshih said.

He expressed hope that the world community would come to the aid of the agency so that it can pursue its humanitarian mission.

The government is planning to implement a Social Safety Net programme aimed at underdeveloped regions in the country including the refugee camps, Mr. Tarshih added. UNRWA provides basic health, education and social services for around 3.4 million Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

(Continued from page 1)

massacre, close to the capital Algiers, last month.

The government said 98 people were slaughtered and 120 wounded, including 30 seriously. Residents put the death toll at up to 300.

L'authentique said

Algerian forces smash GIA hideout — press

troops were also operating between Medea and Tablat round Kef Takri-na and by Monday night had killed more than 70 rebels. It was thought that GIA chief Zouabri was caught within the military deployment, the newspaper said, without giving details.

Zouabri has been

reported killed several times, the most recent in a two-week operation in July when Algerian newspapers said up to 300 rebels had died.

On Monday, La Tribune newspaper said security forces had killed 69 rebels in an operation near Chrea, just south of Blida,

which lies some 50 kilometres from the Algerian capital.

In the Netherlands on Monday, Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Attaf said the government had the security situation in the country "totally under control" despite the massacres in which thousands of people

have died.

He said the wave of killings were coming out of despair by "terrorists" who had lost their belief in their ability to destabilise the country's institutions.

The minister's confidence is not shared by many civilians living in the capital or nearby,

according to reports in Algerian newspapers.

They speak of widespread panic at the slightest unusual noise, of abandoned villages, of sleepless nights as men armed with iron bars, knives and other weapons mount guard to protect their families.



Come and join the fun. The Amman Marriott is doing it again; For the 12th time the train is back on track. EAT, DRINK and DANCE as much as you can on Sept. 11th. Have fun and do charity for Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation and Education of the Physically Handicapped. The tickets are for JD 70, and if you gather a group of six you get your seventh ticket for free; so if you haven't got your ticket yet, get up and call the Marriott or even better pass by.

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Jordan seeks U.S. help, training to join WTO

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian delegation led by Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Halaq leaves for Washington Wednesday to meet a number of officials in U.S. organisations on issues related to the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Tamam Al Ghoul, head of the WTO unit at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply, said the delegation will enlist the help of the American organisations in preparing for the negotiations on Jordan's joining the world trade body.

Ms. Ghoul, who is also member of the Jordanian delegation, said the visit and the talks are aimed at facilitating the Jordanian-WTO negotiations and at benefiting from the experiences of the organisations in such negotiations.

The talks will cover the prospect of arranging for Jordanian personnel to be trained by these organisations on following up issues pertaining to the coming negotiations, according to Ms. Ghoul.

She said Jordan seeks to ensure a sound approach in the negotiations and to avert any gaps so as to guarantee a successful outcome.

Ms. Ghoul said the delegation's visit should be seen as part of efforts to win an additional support from Jordan's main trade partners to join the WTO adding that Jordan is supported by Arab states in its quest to join the organisation.

Ms. Ghoul said Jordan has so far conducted two rounds of negotiations with the WTO noting that the third round is due in Geneva early next year.

She said that Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania, Djibouti, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates have already joined the WTO.

She said that along with Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Oman and Sudan are negotiating with the WTO while Syria and Lebanon are studying the prospect of applying to join the organisation.

Egypt hosts Euromoney conference to attract foreign investment

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt is set to announce the privatisation of 30 tourist establishments including hotels and restaurants at an international investment conference, it was announced here on Tuesday.

Details of the privatisation of hotels, restaurants, floating hotels and prime tourist land were due to be made on Wednesday, on the second day of a Euromoney Conference here attended by 700 local and foreign businessmen.

The "Tiger on the Nile" conference was inaugurated by Prime Minister Kamal Al Ganzouri and speakers here included several members of his cabinet including Public Enterprises Minister Atef Ebeid.

Mr. Ganzouri told the conference that economic growth in Egypt would hit more than seven per cent by the turn of the century. "Our economy should grow by more than seven per cent at least in two years from now," he said.

Economic growth was five per cent in the year to July 1997, according to official figures, while the World Bank has predicted growth of six per cent in the coming year.

Mr. Ganzouri identified a series of priorities for Egypt — growth of seven per cent, a doubling of trade, a tripling of exports in the next five years, an improvement in production quality and competitiveness, more investment and saving and the improvement of education and health services.

Mr. Ganzouri, an economist, has marshalled in a host of International Monetary Fund (IMF)-sponsored economic reforms since taking office — notably the liberalisation of the financial sector and the privatisation of many state enterprises.

However, he told the conference Egypt still had a long way to go before it could achieve its "dream of becoming a tiger on the Nile" — a reference to the soaring economies of Asia.

The Egyptian officials also sought to dispel a vagueness which has permeated the country's ambitious privatisation drive because, according to Western experts, of some internal opposition to the sale of state-owned assets.

Experts have also noted a certain inexperience in the field of privatisation, Mr. Ebeid, meanwhile,

gave a breakdown of the 314 public enterprises set to be privatised by the year 2000: 76 have been sold at different levels, 34 should be sold by the end of the year, 55 in 1998 and 65 in 1999.

Mr. Ebeid also admitted that Egypt, which first tried to go it alone, has sought foreign help to restructure several firms and make them more enticing to foreign investors.

"We don't have the know-how. We have to admit frankly that we should rely on those with experience of restructuring," Mr. Ebeid said, adding that the textile, metal, hotel and chemical industries were among those needing foreign help.

He said the government was "now negotiating with some foreign groups" who will be allowed a minority share in the capital of privatised companies in exchange for managing them.

"It is an invitation not for immediate profit but for good profit over two years," Mr. Ebeid said. "We offer debt-free companies free of an excessive labour force."

Egypt launched its privatisation programme in 1991 but it really took off in 1996.

Russia's external debt could rise to \$130 billion

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia's external debt may rise by \$5.8 billion by the end of 1997 to reach a total of \$130.8 billion, according to finance ministry figures.

Most of the debt was incurred by the former Soviet Union, the ministry said. The Soviet-era debts total \$97.8 billion, of which \$59.3 billion consists of state-to-state debts, the ministry said.

Russia has already reached long-term rescheduling agreements for most of the Soviet-era debt.

Russian debts incurred since Jan. 1, 1992 — after the collapse of the Soviet Union — could reach \$33 billion by the end of this year, \$15.3 billion of which is owed to international financial organisations, mainly the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

At the end of 1996 Russia's external debt totalled \$24.2 billion.

Russia hopes to negotiate the rescheduling of \$32 billion owed to the London Club of creditor banks before Dec. 31.

Russia also hopes to join the Paris Club of creditor nations, to recover credits granted by the former Soviet Union.

In the 1998 draft budget, the Russian government put its foreign borrowing next year at \$9.6 billion.

Dubai has no plans to privatise ports

DUBAI (R) — Dubai Ports Authority (DPA) said it has no plans to privatise its harbours because Jebel Ali and Port Rashid provide substantial revenue to the Arab Gulf emirate, which faces declining oil income.

"There is no reason for us to privatise because we provide substantial economic income for Dubai," DPA Chairman Sultan Ben Sulayem was quoted by the daily Gulf News as saying.

United Arab Emirates (UAE) member Dubai plans to end reliance on oil by 2010. Analysts forecast oil output will fall to some 180,000 barrels per day in 1998 from 1995's estimated 300,000, but the emirate continues to have an active exploration scheme.

Like its Arab Gulf neighbours, the UAE is studying ways to give the private sector a bigger role in its economy.

Saudi Arabia has started handing over to the private sector the operation, maintenance and management of docks and equipment used by the kingdom's ports authority.

In 1996 Dubai's twin terminals of Jebel Ali and Port Rashid handled 30 million tonnes of cargo, up seven per cent on 1995, the DPA has said.

The number of standard container units handled in the year rose eight per cent to a record 2.25 million.

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Prices as at 9/09/97 17:59									
US Dollar	1.0000	0.2211	1.4848	119.03	1.3835	1764.20	2.0389	6.0885	
GB Sterling	1.8888	2.8781	0.3471	0.9102	0.3471	0.9102	1.1281	2.3915	
JP Yen	0.0084	1.5204	0.5279	1.2456	0.5513	1188.01	37.22	4.0997	
FR Franc	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	
IT Lira	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	
ES Ptas	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	
GR Drac	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	
PT Escudo	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	
FI Mark	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	

Middle Eastern Currencies									
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7090	3.7543	0.3770	3.5405	0.2047	3.6728	1530.00	3.3875
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1891	0.1905	0.97	0.0612	0.96	407.97	0.9033	
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	1.0502	1.0302	0.9087	1.01	420.27	0.9305	
Emirate Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0211	1.0128	0.9012	1.00	416.58	0.9223	
Yemen Rial	0.2723	0.1930	1.0211	1.0128	0.9012	1.00	416.58	0.9223	
Egyptian Pound	0.2723	0.1930	1.0211	1.0128	0.9012	1.00	416.58	0.9223	

Energy	
Brent	18.47
WTI	18.47
Bonny	18.47
UK Gas	208.00

Mid-East Currencies	
SA Riyal	0.2666
Qatar Dinar	0.2747
Emirate Dinar	0.2723
Yemen Rial	0.2723
Egyptian Pound	0.2723

Metal Prices	
Gold (oz)	321.7
Silver (oz)	4.75
Platinum (oz)	418
Al (3 Month)	1.17
CU (3 Month)	1.17
Zinc (3 Month)	1.17
Lead (3 Month)	1.17
Ni (3 Month)	1.17

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)	
USD	5.58
GBP	7.05
JPY	0.86
DEM	1.06
FRF	3.23
CHF	1.28
ITL	0.75

Main Equity Indices	
New York	DOW JONES 7830.3
London	FTSE 100 4840.8
Paris	CAC 40 2918.04
Frankfurt	DAX 4000

Energy	
Coffee (lb)	177.58
Sugar (lb)	22.25
Soybean (lb)	22.25
Wheat (lb)	22.25
Barley (lb)	22.25
Rice (lb)	22.25

JOD Cross Rates	
US Dollar	0.7090
GB Sterling	1.2871
JP Yen	0.0084
FR Franc	0.0000
IT Lira	0.0000

Source: Central Bank of Jordan

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

1 Home of the Buccaneers

6 "Woe—"

10 Hormone

14 "Let's Make—"

15 USPS concern

18 Brogan, e.g.

17 Gem of a novelist?

19 Scarlett's plantation

20 Sewell or Freud

21 Heap

22 Streisand film

23 Dull

25 One employed with: suit

26 Foster of film

29 Preoccupation with the self

34 Puzzle

36 Structural beam

37 Regret

39 Gem of a financier

42 Charged particle

43 Caper

44 Oldhaman

45 Fabray et al.

48 State a belief

49 Chicken — king

50 Seize

52 Ceases

55 Jungle sound

57 Soft drink

61 Own

62 Gem of an actress

64 Copycat

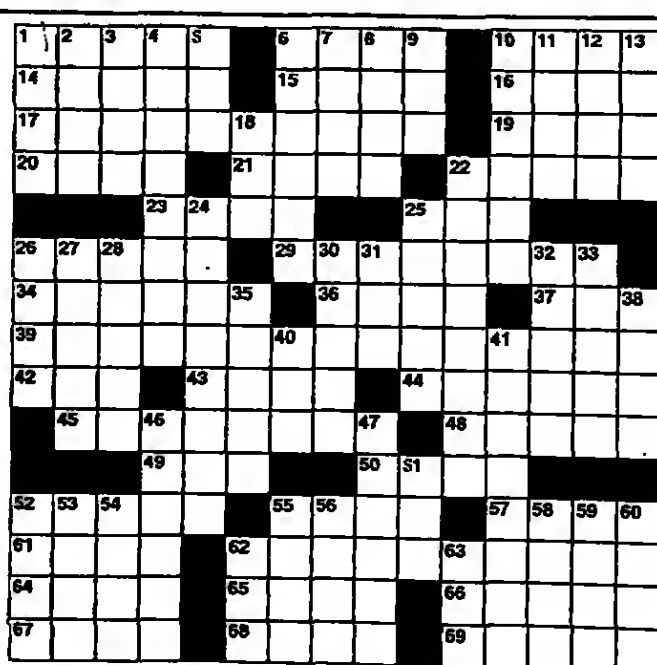
65 Century plant

66 Geniuffed

67 Contradict

68 Dandelion, e.g.

69 Films



by Stanley B. Whitten

MUFF	MACK	BLAG
OLEO	ABLE	CLOSE
ATTU	ROUND	ROBIN
BRER	IRE	RECENT
ASSENT	BOA	
QUO	PROMOTED	
FLOR	COOP	VIOL
LANA	PANAY	ATIP
EMIR	AGEO	SLOTS
EATERIES	TIO	
IMARET	PAR	FLAY
RUGIKSCUBE	IRIS	
ALOSS	ELLE	COTE
SLYE	OPEN	EYER

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DOWN

1 Paper-like cloth

2 Part of Yemen

3 Nasty

4 Exemplary pattern

5 Everything

6 Drink

7 Below

8 Rodents

9 B.P.O.E. member

10 Nautical term

11 Charlie — detective

12 Civil wrong

13 Make better

18 Resort

22 Annual publication

24 Makes over

25 Islamic leaders

26 "Return of the —"

27 Hamburger topper

28 Ross or Rigg

30 Doughboy

31 Sash

32 Tehran resident

33 Poet W.H. —

35 Writer Loos

38 "Jane —"

40 Insecticide

41 Hangman's noose

46 Table linen

47 Remained

51 Noah's vessel

52 Food fish

53 Record

54 Kitchen item

55 Regulation

56 Hautboy

58 Cassini of fashion

59 Proofreader's word

60 B.A. word

62 Crude

63 — out (supplement)

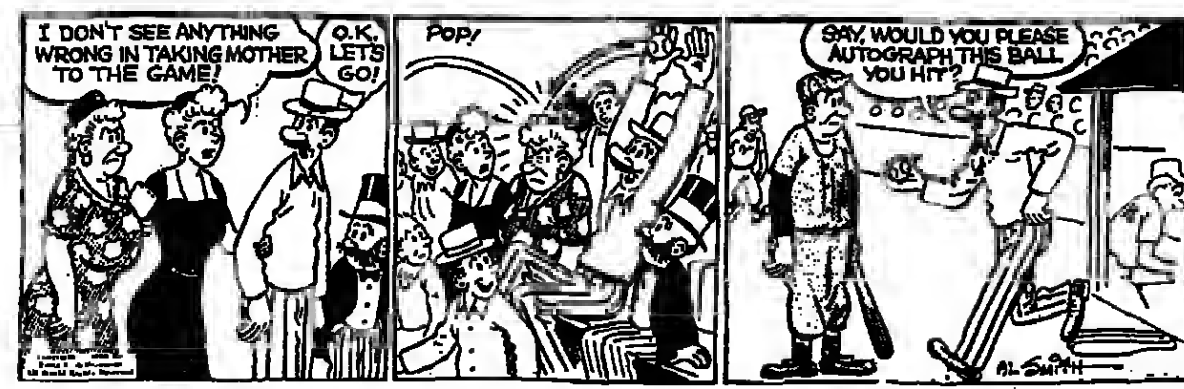
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



Contractors recommend forming alliance to compete with large foreign companies

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in a meeting on the establishment of large contracting companies Tuesday recommended the formation of joint ventures of major contracting firms in Jordan to be able to compete with foreign contracting companies.

At the conclusion of their meeting, held at the Government Tenders Department of the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, participants agreed that classification of joint venture companies be done in accordance with a decision by the Court of Cassation.

The meeting approved the terms for forming joint venture companies, under which the parties to the venture will accomplish their commitments as set out in the contract signed with the second party.

The terms stipulated that parties to the

agreement shall not be entitled to break or dissolve the venture until the project offered to them is completed, and that they shall be fully responsible for the complete implementation of the project until its delivery.

Director of the Government Tenders Department, Naser Madadha, said he department has stipulated that the joint venture be established by virtue of a decision by the Court of Cassation rather than by the Companies Law, because it is difficult to apply Article 7 C of the 1997 Companies Law for registering joint venture contracting companies or consulting companies.

Mr. Madadha added that amendments to the regulations on rehabilitation of engi-

neering offices and consulting companies have been referred in the Cabinet for endorsement.

He indicated that some of the articles of the regulations on classification of contracts have been revised and referred to the Prime Ministry for endorsement.

The joint ventures aim to enable Jordanian contractors to compete with foreign contractors, provide new job opportunities for Jordanian contractors, and allow them to participate in major local tenders, financed by foreign funds, he said.

The amendments in the articles on classification of contractors will also enable local contractors to participate in regional and international project, particularly those financed by the World Bank, he added.

Commenting on this initiative, Jordan Contractors Association President Wael Touqan said "the globalisation, free market economies and the new regulations compels us to establish joint ventures."

Noting that the new Companies Law has provided for the formation of civil companies, he pointed out that the law falls short of meeting our goal to pool our capacities, resources and expertise to rehabilitate contractors to participate in major contracts.

Mr. Touqan called for enacting a special legislation to allow existing companies to form new entities without requiring them to pump funds as capital in their own equipment as assets to be eligible for awarding them (new entities) any contracts.

Housing Bank to launch Jordan mutual fund

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan's Housing Bank, the Kingdom's second largest in terms of assets, will launch next Monday a \$28 million fund managed by Alliance Capital to invest in local blue chips and debt instruments, the bank said Tuesday.

The 20 million dinar (\$28 million) fund, a wholly-owned company of Housing Bank managed by New York-based Alliance Capital, is the first such fund dedicated to Jordanian equities and debt instruments.

"In Jordan we are acting as an adviser, the fund belongs to the Housing Bank" said David Edgerly, general manager of Istanbul-based Alliance Capital Management.

Alliance Capital, which is among the most active foreign funds investing in Jordan, saw its role in the fund as part of stepped-up interest in Jordanian securities as the market becomes more investor friendly, Mr. Edgerly said.

He said the Housing Bank Jordan Fund would offer international investors to capitalise on opportunities in Jordan which they would be unable to find on their own.

"We will be investing in all manner of Jordanian securities, equities in the Amman Financial Market, fixed income, and some companies that are not listed, whose shares are not open," Mr. Edgerly said.

Housing Bank and Alliance Capital will hold road shows in London and the Gulf later in the month, targeting mainly foreign investors, high net worth individuals and Jordanian expatriates. The fund also targets small investors.

Alliance, whose investors come from the U.S., Europe

and the Gulf, has invested since 1994 over \$200 million in the Middle East region, Mr. Edgerly said.

The Housing Bank Jordan Fund, with a total 200,000 shares on offer, has set a minimum of 10 shares (1,000 dinars) in subscription.

It will be close-ended fund for the first three years and then automatically become open-ended by the third year of the closing date of subscription.

The Housing Bank Jordan Fund's closing date of subscription is Oct. 16.

It was set up in Bahrain to target Gulf and global investors and because Jordan had no legislation for establishing mutual investment funds.

It will also be listed by year-end in both the Amman Financial Market (AFM) and the Bahrain stock market under the dual listing accord between the two bourses.

Housing Bank which has 121 branches across Jordan is the main provider of private real estate credit but its commercial banking has long overruled its original business and now ranks second among the country's banks in size of assets and deposits.

Housing Bank is also expanding its investment and private banking business for its clients in capital markets as it seeks to extend its global presence.

The bank has recently doubled its capital to 50 million dinars by issuing 25 million new shares which have been mainly covered by its existing Gulf shareholders.

Bank officials say larger stakes by Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman and Saudi investor Khaled Bin Mahfouz in the capital hike will enable the bank to expand its global and regional role.

Israel's joining IFC index to draw foreign funds

TEL AVIV (R) — Foreign investment in the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange will grow sharply after the International Finance Corp (IFC) adds Israel to its emerging markets index in November, an Israeli market analyst has said.

Tobias Fischbein, an analyst with the Tel Aviv brokerage Ilanot Baucha, estimated in a report that \$135 million would automatically flow into Israel from overseas funds that weight their holdings strictly according to the IFC index.

The IFC index has said it is assigning Israel an initial weighting of 1.3 per cent. "The sum of \$135 million is only a small part of the total assets expected to flow to the

Israeli market," Mr. Fischbein said in a statement. He said that mutual funds, with assets of tens of billions of dollars, would also invest in Israeli stocks as a result of the IFC.

The IFC, the private-sector affiliate of the World Bank, said in July it would add Israel and four other countries to the IFC investable composite index beginning Nov. 3 to give investors a broader view of the world's emerging markets.

Ilanot Baucha said the market value of all of the companies that make up Israel's IFCI investable index came to about \$27.7 billion, registering about a 25 per cent rise in dollar terms since the start of the year after distribution of dividends.

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Government purchases will not be exempted from sales tax in '98

** THE MINISTERIAL Development Council is currently studying a scheme under which government purchases will no longer be exempted from sales tax, Deputy Prime Minister Jawad Anani told journalists before leaving to the United States. "The coverage of those paying sales tax will be widened and the exemptions will be limited to charitable societies only, he stressed.

Dr. Anani indicated that as from the 1998 budget, ministries and other government institutions will be asked to specify their purchases from the beginning of the year and to set aside sales tax allocations for the purchases from the budget of the concerned ministry or institution. "If need arises during the year in make other purchases the concerned party will be obliged to set aside the sales tax value from other allocations in the budget," the deputy prime minister for development affairs said. He added that some purchases by charitable organisations will be exempted from the sales tax.

"The government will confine the sales tax rate to 10 per cent as it will not be able to raise the tax any higher under any circumstances in conformity with the policies aiming at opening to the world and joining the World Trade Organisation," Dr. Anani said.

Dr. Anani told journalists that immediately following the end of the economic adjustment programme in 1998, a national adjustment programme will begin. This national programme will complement the reform steps in the previous programmes, he said, pointing out that it will depend on controlling spending, cutting the budget deficit and completing the package of economic laws and regulations.

Asked about the proceeds from privatising state equity in various companies, the deputy prime minister said special legislations will be formulated for the "fund." "The principle is to neutralise the privatisation proceeds which will not be transferred to the treasury, as it belongs to future generations," he explained.

He said the government will support the employees in purchasing government shares although such purchases will be limited and according to prices prevailing in the market. "The government is presently studying whether it will follow a special mechanism to finance the subsidised purchase of shares or to cover the difference from the fund itself or otherwise," Dr. Anani added.

Commenting on objections to sell shares in foreign investors, Dr. Anani said the internal regulations of some institutions should not contradict with the Securities Law. He stressed that the principle is the governance of the law and all companies and institutions should be in harmony with the law (Al Ra'i).

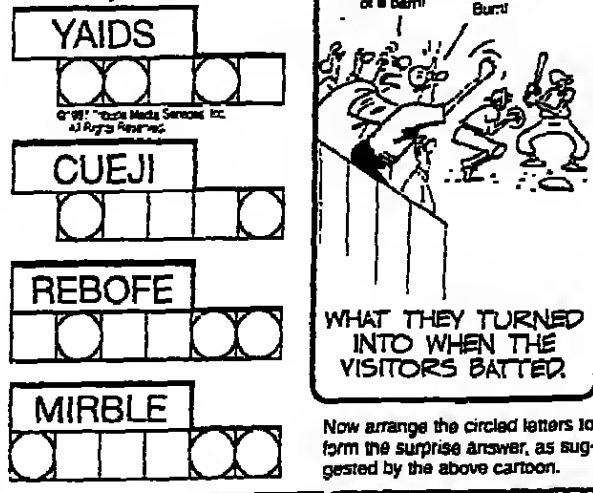
THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"My doctor says I have tired blood. His report described me as a human lava lamp."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon. Answer here: (Answers Monday)

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 09/09/1997											
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	F / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
346.000	238.500	ARAB BANK	15.5	1.19	61	1820	605440	332.00	336.00	4.00+	
2.340	1.680	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	1.1	0.00	19	15142	29712	1.96	1.96	-	
1.210	.890	MTD. EAST INV. BK.	59.1	0.00	4	2500	2250	.90	.90	-	
2.480	2.130	INDUSTRIAL INV. BK.	8.9	7.06	6	1935	4324	2.25	2.24	.01-	
5.200	4.580	THE HOUSING BK.	14.5	4.00	12	156325	780278	4.84	4.85	.01+	
4.180	2.440	JOR. KOWATZ BANK	11.3	0.00	9	46200	146910	3.15	3.18	.03+	
1.050	.920	JOR. GULF BANK	4.6	9.09	2	3000	2310	1.77	.77	-	
4.050	3.520	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.9	3.08	18	4184	16356	3.98	3.90	.08-	
3.800	3.080	JOR. INV. FUND BANK	21.7	0.00	2	275	928	3.38	3.38	-	
1.440	.850	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	9	0.00	6	41750	37571	.90	.90	-	
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 239.84	%CHG: +0.90	140	273146	1626133				
1.740	1.200	AMMANIAN SEAS INSUR.	8.7	0.00	1	50	60	1.20	1.20	-	
4.550	3.800	JERUSALEM INSUR.	10.7	5.06	1	100	395	3.95	3.95	-	
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 114.70	%CHG: 0.00	2	150	455				
1.820	1.550	JOR. ELECTRICITY PWR.	8.4	5.71	59	39600	68877	1.73	1.75	.02+	
2.000	1.320	ISRAID ELECTRICITY	12.5	5.48	3	1140	2394	2.00	2.10	.10+	
3.050	2.280	SHIPPING LINES	16.3	4.64	1	590	1400	2.75	2.80	.05+	
1.550	.930	RAIL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	6	5450	7808	1.42	1.44	.02+	
1.010	.820	REAL ESTATE INV.	12.8	6.52	1	200	184	.92	.92	-	
8.500	6.700	ALRA I	12.5	7.14	3	11950	83150	6.70	7.00	.30+	
1.050	1.000	JORDAN EXPAT. INV.	9	0.00	1	3100	3100	1.05	1.00	.05-	
1.230	.920	KARLA EDUCATION	9	0.00	4	7525	8047	1.04	1.06	.02+	
2.230	1.630	UNITED CO.	8.2	6.36	5	4100	7078	1.73	1.73	-	
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 111.83	%CHG: +0.84	83	73565	182038				
1.100	.930	ATTACHEE	9	0.00	1	500	300	1.00	1.00	-	
4.450	3.220	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	26.2	2.83	10	2229	8665	3.89	3.89	-	
7.050	5.400	JORAN POTASH CO.	4.0	3.13	2	260	1200	6.00	6.00	-	
10.660	9.070	JOR. PETROL REFINERY	10.4	8.29	21	1725	18475	10.65	10.72	.07+	
1.470	1.050	WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	9.9	8.77	1	1500	1710	1.16	1.14	.02-	
3.260	1.820	INDUSTRIAL COM. AGR.	9	0.00	5	430	721	1.65	1.70	.05+	
7.150	5.800	JOR. WOODSTOCK HILLS	11.2	7.98	7	1950	12070	6.85	6.90	.05+	
4.380	3.040	ARAB FOUNDRY	12.2	4.22	25	4673	30078	4.33	4.42	.09+	
2.580	2.150	JORDAN DAIRY	8.7	9.47	1	150	387	2.58	2.58	-	
3.400	2.700	JOR. PAPER CARBON	15.9	0.00	2	60	226	2.80	2.82	.02+	
1.050	.930	RAFA INDUSTRIES	9	0.00	1	110	110	1.10	1.10	-	
5.650	4.300	DAR ALDAMA DR. INV.	13.7	4.46	6	1106	6197	5.60	5.60	-	
3.850	2.220	ARAB ALUM. IND.	5.4	10.78	7	4250	9782	2.29	2.32	.03+	
.960	.480	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9.9	0.00	5	1750	823	.47	.47	-	
1.350	1.000	ARAB PAPER CO. INV.	31.5	0.00	4	1050	1079	1.05	1.03	.02-	
1.500	.790	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	1	600	492	.82	.82	-	
.770	.510	NATIONAL IND.	9	0.00	3	2550	1236	.53	.52	.01-	
1.200	.510	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	3	700	399	.58	.57	.01-	
3.000	2.070	NATL. CABLE WIRE. NETAC	33.7	0.00	1	100	210	2.10	2.10	-	
.920	.530	JOR. SULPHUR CHEM.	9	0.00	9	4800	2981	.62	.62	-	
1.670	1.120	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	17.2	5.19	8	2500	3504	1.34	1.35	.01+	
1.880	1.080	UNIV. MOBILE IND.	9	0.00	4	1750	2182	1.24	1.25	.01+	
1.510	.910	JOR. IND. RESOURCES	12.2	10.99	7	3359	3056	.91	.91	-	
1.070	.810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.2	0.00	8	4000	3348	.84	.83	.01-	
2.090	1.340	EL. & GAS REPAIR WORK	55.6	0.00	4	3550	5609	1.58	1.58	-	
1.130	1.080	INTL. TOBACCO	6.4	0.00	13	3495	4096	1.16	1.17	.01+	
1.160	.860	UNION CR. & VEH.	50.9	0.00	8	3250	3640	1.12	1.12	-	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 121.22	%CHG: +0.16	169	52159	112917				
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 174.79	%CHG: +0.62	394	399020	1921543				
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 09/09/1997											
+.630	.340	CENTRAL CHEM. STORAGE	9	0.00	1	8200	2788	.34	.34	-	
+.650	.390	JOR. TRADE PAC.	10.1	0.00	1	1000	380	.39	.38	.01-	
+.950	.540	JOR. FEN. INV. CO.	9	0.00	27	62450	38077	.62	.61	.01-	
+.840	.660	UNION INV. 501	9	0.00	6	15450	3554	.73	.73	-	
+.570	.370	ARAB FID. INVEST.	9	0.00	24	33393	12316	.38	.36	.02-	
+.810	.610	AL-ONEYAH 751	72.0	0.00	3	2065	1062	.61	.61	-	
+.480	.200	JOR. IND. MATCH-JUNCO	9	0.00	1	3600	900	.25	.25	-	
+.570	.380	ARAB EXPL. INV. TRD.	46.1	0.00	15	28050	11220	.39	.40	.01+	
+.720	.420	NATL. TEXTILE	9	0.00	1	3450	1449	.42	.42	-	
+.400	.250	NATL. CEMENT BANKCO	75.0	0.00	19	13221	3567	.43	.43	-	
+.820	.710	JORDAN STEEL	34.4	6.58	3	3600	2701	.75	.76	.01+	
+.580	.480	ARAB EXPL. IND.	9	0.00	3	17500	8225	.48	.47	.01-	
+.730	.580	REDSEA PHARM. 751	9	0.00	2	500	252	.58	.58	-	
+.860	.700	IND. CHEMICO	18.1	0.00	2	2350	1622	.70	.69	.01-	
+.820	.590	NATL. POULTRY	9	0.00	5	488	316	.65	.65	-	
+.1000	.700	NAT. ALUMINIUM. 751	97.4	0.00	3	4032	1813	.70	.70	-	
+.860	.590	RED. EAST COMPLEX	7.3	16.95	11	9500	5518	.59	.59	-	
GRAND TOTAL			151	224428	105230						

Jordan's basketball team leaves for Asian Championship

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's men's national basketball team left for Riyadh, Saudi Arabia Tuesday to take part in the 17th Asian Basketball Championship which will be held Sept. 11-19 with 15 teams taking part.

The participating teams have been divided into four groups. Jordan will be playing alongside Kazakhstan, Chinese Taipei and Indonesia in Group D.

Group A includes China, Iran, the Philippines and Bahrain.

Group B includes South Korea, the United Arab Emirates, India and Bangladesh.

Group C includes Japan, Saudi Arabia and Hong Kong.

Only the top two teams in each group will move to the second round.

Jordan opens its matches against Kazakhstan Sept. 11. They next play Taipei Sept. 12 and Indonesia Sept. 13.

The competing teams include the top four from the last championship and the hosts who qualified automatically.

There are also two teams from each of the ABC's five regional zones.

Jordan and Iran automatically qualified from the West Asia Zone. Both teams took the two allocated slots following the withdrawal of Iraq and Syria from the pre-qualifiers which were due to be held in Tehran, Iran in August.

Up to seven teams are eligible to contest West Asia zone qualifiers in the future as the region includes Palestine, Yemen and Lebanon, but the three are out this year since they have

not paid their dues to the Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC).

Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) sources admitted that the team was not best prepared for the event in which Jordan last took part in 1995 with the junior team and came in 13th.

"We would have wanted the team to be better prepared in order to improve our standing among Asian teams. However, many reasons prevented more serious training," noted JBF member Sa'eed Shuqum.

He stressed that the fact that Jordan automatically qualified without having to play qualifiers was a negative aspect since the team needed training matches.

Following the team's disappointing sixth place finish at the Pan-Arab Games, a series of setbacks hampered serious preparation.

JBF officials noted the lack of a training court, a training camp in preparation and more matches were blocked by a serious cash shortage.

Although the JBF scheduled its competition and agendas having the Asian Championship as a priority, the team is not expected to fare well because of the aforementioned reasons surrounding its preparation.

The JBF had also cancelled the women's participation in the Asian Championship in Bangkok earlier in the year.

The federation was seriously contemplating withdrawing from participation in Riyadh but later dropped the option as that would entail a \$10,000 penalty by the ABC.

With most of its allocated budget spent on the women's and men's par-

ticipation in the Pan-Arab Games the JBF had to appeal to the Ministry of Culture and Youth to secure funding.

Although they received JD 7,000 from the ministry, the cash-strapped federation dropped the option of a training camp in East Europe or hosting teams in Amman and settled for two friendly matches in Lebanon with the sponsorship of Aramex.

Joined by Al Jazireh's players, the national team played two matches against Lebanese clubs losing 73-69 to Antranig and beating Wardieh 72-64.

The national team has been training under new coach Imad Al Saeed after the JBF relieved the Ukrainian coach of his duties following the team's sixth place finish at July's Pan-Arab Games in Beirut.

Following the departure of many players like Zeid Alkhas, Mahmoud Sha'ban, Marwan Saeedi and Naser Bassam, the JBF named Husam Lutfi, Ma'an Odeh, Yousef Abu Bakr, Naser Alawneh, Ala' Bilbeisi, Faisal Nsour, Fadi Saqqa, Ramez Hammoudeh, Mohammad Shamali, Ayman Du'eys, Ashraf Samara and Jan Sahlieh.

Top veteran players like Hilal Barakat, Naser Bushnaq, Marwan Ma'touq and Yousef Zaghloul are missing the lineup.

The national team's best performance was a gold medal win at the 1985 Pan-Arab Games in Morocco.

On the Asian level, the under-18 team won the bronze medal at the 1995 Asian Junior Championship enabling the team to become the first Jordanian team to qualify to a World Championship.

Times may be changing for Bucs, Cards

NEW YORK (AP) — The Tampa Bay Buccaneers have lost at least 10 games in all but one of their last 14 seasons and haven't finished over .500 since 1982.

The Cardinals — St. Louis and Arizona — haven't had a winning season since 1984 and made their last playoff appearance in that same strike-shortened 1982 season, when the National Football League put 16 of the 28 teams into the postseason.

Are things finally turning for both teams?

It may indeed be time for the Bucs, who have corralled some nice offensive players like Warren Stimpert and Mike Alstott in the last two drafts to go with what has been a solid defense for a while. Tampa Bay is one of just five 2-0 teams and is a game ahead of Green Bay in the NFC Central.

But let's wait on the Cardinals, whose fans went dancing off into the stifling desert night, goalposts in hand, after their team rallied from 15 points down to beat the Dallas Cowboys 25-22 in overtime. It ended a 13-game losing streak to Dallas.

The signs of Tampa's emergence were evident at the end of last season, when the Bucs finished 5-3 after starting 1-7 in their first season under Tony Dungy. Dungy was into winning "coach speak" after Sunday's 24-17 win in Detroit, disturbed with his defense for letting the lions into the game late, then adding: "But it's better than saying, 'we're playing better, but we can't win.'"

The Cardinals won with their defense, which held the Cowboys without an offensive touchdown and knocked out Michael Irvin and Emmitt Smith. That allowed Kent Graham, imperfect but tough, to drive the team to two second-half touchdowns against a Dallas defense under the influence of heat stroke. He also threw for a two-pointer and set up Kevin Butler's winning field goal.

Two things about the win:

• Graham was the eighth quarterback to open the season for the cards in their 10 seasons in Tempe. (Neil Lomax, Gary Hogeboom, Timm Rosenbach twice, Tom Tupa, Steve Buerlein twice, Dave Krieg and Boomer Esiason are the others.)

• In typical Cardinals fashion, nothing came easy: Butler's game-winner, from just 20 yards, clanked off the left upright and bounced through.

"I've never had that happen before," said Butler, who has 16 winning kicks in 14 NFL seasons. "Usually they just come right back at me."

Maybe it's a sign. Parity or parody? After two weeks, only six unbeaten teams are left in the NFL. Not among them are Green Bay, Dallas and San Francisco.

But try this on for size, by the inexact and always inaccurate method of comparative scores.

The Packers lost 10-9 to the eagles on Sunday. The week before, Philadelphia was beaten 31-17 by the Giants, who lost 40-13 to Jacksonville on Sunday (with former world leaguer Steve Matthews at quarterback for the Jaguars).

So that makes the Packers 15 points worse than the Giants, who are 27 points worse than the Jaguars and means...

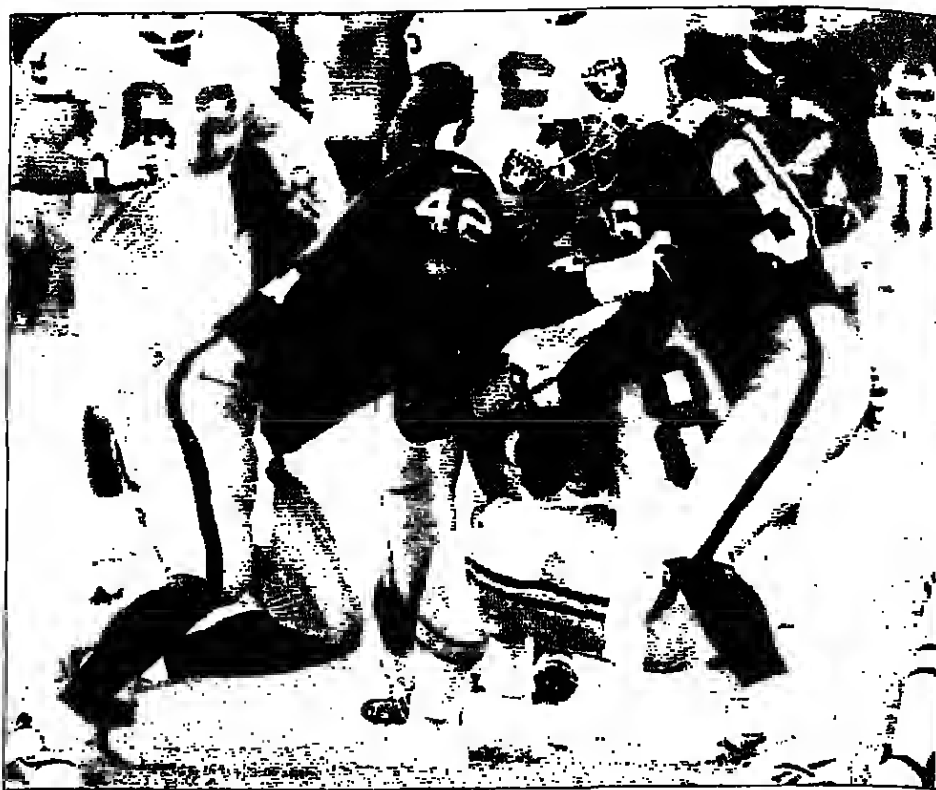
Jacksonville would beat Green Bay by 42 points? No, not yet.

Clank! Shank! Sometimes there seem to be so many automatic field goal kickers around that people named Richie Cunningham and Ryan Longwell can just show up and start putting balls through the uprights automatically.

Not this week. • Al Delgreco, one of the NFL's most reliable veterans, missed a 43-yarder with five seconds left in regulation that would have given Tennessee a win in Miami. Instead, it was Olindo mare, one of those off-the-street guys, who won it in overtime for the Dolphins.

Longwell, a walk-on who beat out third-round draft choice Brett Conway for the Packers' job, missed right on a 28-yarder that would have given Green Bay a win in Philadelphia. It had just started to rain, but Longwell, 8-for-8 before that kick, offered no excuses.

Cunningham, who had hit eight straight in two games replacing Chris Boniol in Dallas, was wide right from 40 yards in the fourth quarter on a kick that may have been deflected and could have given the Cowboys an 11-point lead. Arizona tied it and won in overtime, on Butler's clank.



Kansas City Chiefs wide receiver Andre Rison (C) is tackled by Oakland Raiders safety Eric Turner (42) and cornerback Terry McDaniels (36) after Rison caught a 16-yard pass from Chiefs quarterback Elvis Grbac in the second quarter of their NFL game at the Oakland Coliseum. Rison caught a game-winning touchdown pass from Grbac with two seconds left on the clock, as the Chiefs defeated the Raiders 28-27 (Reuters photo)

Sri Lanka sprint queen ran from the army

COLOMBO (AFP) — Susanthika Jayasinghe, who won Sri Lanka's first medal at the World Athletics Championships last month, is an army deserter, military sources said Tuesday.

The authorities discovered that Jayasinghe, who won a silver medal in the 200 metres in Athens last month, was a deserter when she was invited as a guest at the army's colours night last week.

"To avoid embarrassment, the authorities took immediate action to issue an order declaring that her services (in the army) were no longer required," said a senior military official said.

"Anyway, she did not turn up for the event."

Jayasinghe is Sri Lanka's best hope for a medal at the next Olympics. Sri Lanka's first and only Olympic medal was in the athletics in London in 1948.

She said shortly after winning the medal: "It is 50 years since my country won a medal. All I can promise them is that as I am only 20 now I will win gold in two years time at the next World Championships."

Jayasinghe enlisted in the army women's corp about two years ago. It was not immediately clear why she quit.

The discovery came amid a major crackdown against thousands of deserters who had failed to respond to repeated offers of an amnesty.

Military figures show that only 4,000 out of 12,000 deserters have reported back for duty.



Australia's Patrick Rafter

Rafter 3rd in ATP rankings

PARIS (AFP) — Patrick Rafter's U.S. Open win has lifted the Australian from 14th to a career-high 3rd in the ATP Tour rankings issued Monday. He was 64th in February.

Sunday's losing finalist, Greg Rusedski of Britain, moves to 11th.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Pete Sampras (USA) | 4,585 pts |
| 2. Michael Chang (USA) | 3,442 |
| 3. Patrick Rafter (Aus) | 2,889 |
| 4. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Rus) | 2,693 |
| 5. Carlos Moya (Spa) | 2,449 |
| 6. Thomas Muster (Aut) | 2,357 |
| 7. Sergi Bruguera (Spa) | 2,357 |
| 8. Marcelo Rios (Chi) | 2,322 |
| 9. Goran Ivanisevic (Cro) | 2,291 |
| 10. Alex Corretja (Spa) | 2,284 |
| 11. Greg Rusedski (Gbr) | 2,235 |
| 12. Gustavo Kuerten (Bra) | 2,230 |
| 13. Jonas Bjorkman (Swe) | 2,190 |
| 14. Felix Mantilla (Spa) | 1,986 |
| 15. Thomas Enqvist (Swe) | 1,983 |
| 16. Petr Korda (Cze) | 1,980 |
| 17. Boris Becker (Ger) | 1,918 |
| 18. Richard Krajicek (Ned) | 1,903 |
| 19. Albert Costa (Spa) | 1,803 |
| 20. Tim Henman (Gbr) | 1,539 |

BMW return to Formula One

FRANKFURT (AFP) — German automobile constructor BMW is to return to Formula One racing in 2000, it announced Monday.

BMW will link with the Williams team after what will have been an absence of 13 years from the Grand Prix scene, marketing director Karl-Heinz Kalbfell announced in a statement.

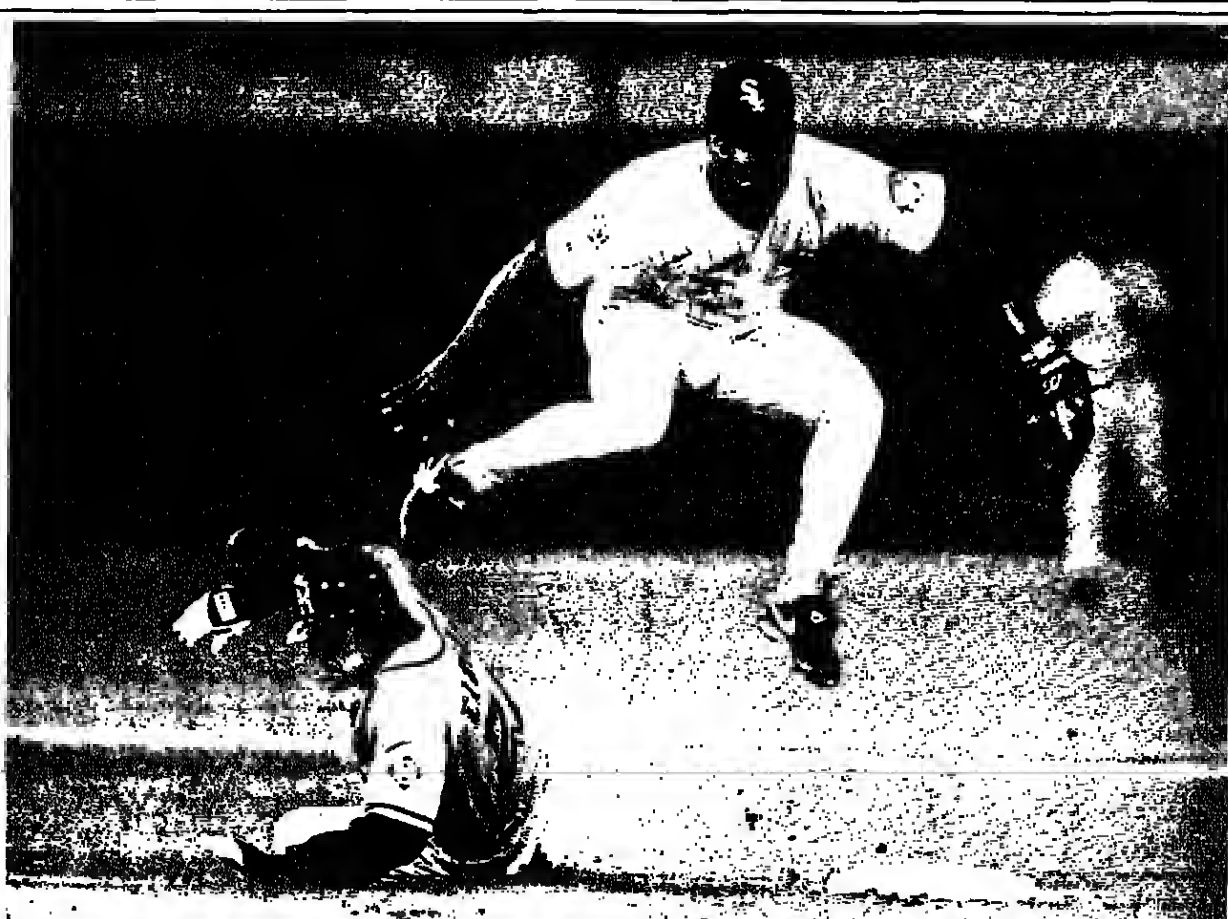
BMW contested 197 Grands Prix between 1951 and 1977, scoring 17 race wins. It won the constructors' championship once — in 1962, while Nelson Piquet drove a Brabham-BMW to the drivers' championship in 1983.

Williams currently uses Renault engines and has previously used engines provided by Ford, Honda and Judd.

"Both the timing and the partner for this project have been chosen with great care," said Kalbfell.

"The high demands of Formula One suit those of a high-tech company like BMW — key aspects of the BMW brand like dynamism and innovation complement the attributes of Formula One."

Frank Williams set up his team with his partner, Patrick Head, 20 years ago and they have since won the constructors' title eight times and the drivers' championship six times — most recently when Britain's Damon Hill won the title last season.



Chicago White Sox' second baseman Norberto Martin jumps over Brewers' Jeff Cirillo as he completes the throw to first base on a double play ball hit to shortstop Chad Fournier by Mark Loretta (Reuters photo)

MAJOR LEAGUE RESULTS

National League

Chicago Cubs	8	Cincinnati	1
Philadelphia	13	NY mets	4
Florida	8	Los Angeles	4

American League

Cleveland	2	Baltimore	1
Detroit	6	Texas	2
Toronto	12	Anaheim	10
Milwaukee	8	Chi White Sox	5
Kansas City	9	Seattle	2
Minnesota	7	Oakland	2

TODAY AT

CINEMA TEL:634144

PHILADELPHIA "1"

Val Kilmer & Elizabeth Shue...in

THE SAINT

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:634144

PHILADELPHIA "2"

Alyssa Milano & William Petersen...in

FEAR

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:699238

PLAZA

Nabila Obeid...in

AL MARA' WAL SATOUR (Arabic)

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:677420

CONCORD

Sandra Bullock & Samuel L. Jackson...in

A TIME TO KILL

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:625155

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Sports

SPORTS IN B

eden names Davis Cup

pool stars set to return

castle trial for PSG's A

may miss celebrat

miss Davis farewell

in fitness race

gets tough with Rava

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Sweden names Davis Cup team

NORRKPING, Sweden (AFP) — Swedish team captain Carl-Axel Hageskog on Tuesday named his line-up to face Italy in their Davis Cup semi-final here. Jonas Bjorkman, Thomas Enqvist, Magnus Larsson and Nicklas Kulti will take on the Italians in the match Sept 19-21.

Liverpool stars set to return

LIVERPOOL (AFP) — Liverpool manager Roy Evans received a boost Monday with the news that star striker Robbie Fowler and new recruit Oyvind Leonhardsen are close to full fitness. The pair will play for Liverpool reserves this week, boosting Evans' plans for next week's 'Battle of Britain' clash with Celtic in a first leg, first round match in the UEFA Cup at Parkhead. Neither has played so far this season, but both will have a run-out on Wednesday in the reserves' home match with Birmingham. If the pair come through unscathed, they are in line to return to the first team squad for Saturday's home English Premiership clash with Sheffield Wednesday. Fowler hasn't played since damaging a knee in a pre-season friendly in Norway, while Norwegian ace Leonhardsen still hasn't made his debut since moving from Wimbledon following a pre-season hamstring injury. It is further good news for Evans, following Czech international Patrik Berger's comeback from injury last week, when he scored twice in the reserves' 2-1 win over Derby.

Newcastle trial for PSG's Allou

PARIS (AFP) — Paris Saint Germain midfielder Bernard Allou is having a week's trial with Newcastle United of the Premiership, PSG revealed on Monday. Allou, 22 and under contract with the French outfit until 2000, has struggled to win a first team place this season with PSG having signed Brazilian star Edmílson from Porto.

Cantona may miss celebrations

MANCHESTER (AFP) — Manchester United are still waiting for a reply from former idol Eric Cantona to an invitation for a celebration dinner at Old Trafford this weekend. United fans were hoping the French international forward, who quit United in May after deciding to retire, would return for the official celebration of last year's English Premiership success after the match against West Ham. But a club spokeswoman admitted they had still not heard from him. "We have not had a reply, nor have we heard that he is not coming," she said. Relations between the champions and their former star deteriorated last month when United rejected claims that he was entitled to a share of the royalties from the sale of goods bearing his name.

Brazilians sink Valencia

MADRID (AFP) — Brazilians Sonny Anderson and Rivaldo scored first-half goals as Barcelona downed Valencia 3-0 on Monday night and surged to the top of the Spanish First Division. Anderson scored in the first minute after a defensive error and Rivaldo added a 38th minute penalty. Ivan de la Pena rounded out the scoring in the 78th minute. It was a hard night for Valencia, who had Italian Amedeo Carboni sent off in his first game for the club. Barcelona, who won their opening match 3-0 against Real Sociedad at last weekend, are the only team in Spain with a 100 per cent record after two matches.

Stich to miss Davis Cup farewell

MUNICH (AFP) — Injury is set to prevent former Wimbledon champion Michael Stich from bringing the curtain down on his career as intended in Germany's Davis Cup promotion-relegation tussle with Mexico. Stich, 28, is retiring at the end of the season and the September 19 to 21 match was to have been his official swansong. The former world number two, who has not played competitively since July, was to have partnered fellow ex-Wimbledon champion Boris Becker in the doubles. But Stich has been suffering from persistent pain in his shoulder, a long-term injury which persuaded him it was time to quit the game. Austria-based Stich, winner of 18 singles titles and nine doubles crowns during his career, led Germany to their Davis Cup triumph over Australia in 1993. German skipper Niki Pilic's team will now comprise Becker, Thomas Haas, Nicolas Kiefer, Jens Knippschild and Marc-Kevin Goellner.

Cole in fitness race

MANCHESTER (AFP) — Andy Cole is facing a race against time to be fit for Manchester United's Champions League game against Kosice in Slovakia next week. Cole will turn out for United's reserves on Wednesday knowing he has just seven days to prove his sharpness ahead of the first round of Champions League games. If fit, Cole is likely to play as the lone striker in the line-up as Norwegian ace Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, last season's leading scorer, is still not fit. United manager Alex Ferguson is also waiting for results of a scan taken on Teddy Sheringham who rejoined his United team-mates after pulling out of the England squad because of cracked ribs. "Andy will play in the reserves against Sheffield Wednesday at Old Trafford tomorrow night because he needs games," said Ferguson. "He is a bit rusty at the moment."

Robson gets tough with Ravanelli

MIDDLESBROUGH (AFP) — Middlesbrough boss Bryan Robson has dropped his unsettled star striker Fabrizio Ravanelli amid rumours that the Italian's presence is upsetting changing room morale. Robson is taking a tough line with the former Juventus star and will not play him in the English First Division clash against Bradford City on Saturday. "I am happy with the squad that battled at Tranmere and Stockport. I will not consider Ravanelli for the Bradford match," Robson said. Ravanelli, who has been targeted by European Champions Borussia Dortmund, has been given permission by the club to stay in Italy but will have showdown talks with Robson when he returns later this

World Cup qualifying roundup

Diana tragedy hangs over England World Cup plans; players donate fees to charity

PARIS (AFP) — England coach Glenn Hoddle and Italian counterpart Cesare Maldini have their final dress rehearsal for next month's vital World Cup qualifying showdown on Wednesday when the European Group Two rivals take on minnows Moldova and Georgia.

Italy currently head the group by a solitary point and have the added psychological advantage of already having won 1-0 at Wembley, a result which confirmed their status as hot favourites to reach the finals in France.

But the three-time world champions urgently need all three points in Georgia to ensure they go into the final crunch match in Rome as leaders.

Anything less would severely jeopardise their hopes of qualifying.

Coach Cesare Maldini is toying with the idea of a three-man attack, based on Roberto Baggio playing behind two strikers, in his bid to ensure a clearcut victory in the Georgian capital Tbilisi.

Maldini's lust for goals is based on the arithmetic of Italy's World Cup campaign, complicated by a frustrating 0-0 draw in Poland.

Italy will probably elect to couple the creative skills of Chelsea's Gianfranco Zola with Lazio's powerful centre-forward, Pierluigi Casiraghi in attack.

Zola's club teammate Roberto Matteo and Parma's Dino Baggio are likely to harness the central midfield, with Juventus pair Antonio Conte and Angelo Di Livio out on the flanks.

Georgia proved in Italy earlier in the competition — before Maldini replaced Arrigo Sacchi — that they are no pushovers, fighting gamely before going down 1-0.

England's new skipper David Seaman, meanwhile, promised his team were ready to blitz Moldova and overcome the wave of emo-

tion which has gripped the whole country since the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

England's players will wear black armbands, Wembley flags will fly at half-mast and there will be a minute's silence as part of the tributes to the princess, killed in a car crash in Paris nine days ago.

Hoddle said: "The icing on the cake would be really to perform well and get people off their seats cheering England on. It would be a nation coming together again for different reasons completely."

Seaman agreed, forecasting: "It's going to be very emotional, but when the whistle goes we've got a serious job to do."

The Arsenal 'keeper will be only the fourth goalkeeper in England's 125-year history to skipper the side.

"David has the respect of both the public and the players for what he's achieved in the game and I felt it was the ideal situation to give him the captaincy," Hoddle explained on Monday.

Undoubtedly there will be a sombre edge to the occasion, and while Elton John, invited to sing the National Anthem, is on duty overseas, his newly-released tribute re-recording of 'Candle in the Wind' is likely to be played to the crowd.

There are fears, however, that by playing the record the game might unwittingly be transformed more into a wake, and there would be obvious problems in following Elton's heartfelt words with the now-obligatory 'Three Lions'.

Hoddle, however, feels the tribute record should be played. "It wouldn't be when the players were anywhere near," said the coach.

"We'll be wearing a black ribbon or an armband. We've had a chat and the boys have decided to donate their match fees to the Princess's charity.

"There is another aspect. There

might be people who aren't aware of the record and this would let them know it was going to be available. 75,000 there might go and buy it. It would be a way of starting to sell it.

"But we know that people will be looking for a positive atmosphere as well. And there's a job to be done, no two ways about it. "Many people had to go back to work yesterday morning. We've got to do it tomorrow, put our professional head on, and get the three points that are there."

Moldova have agreed to Hoddle's request to wear black ribbons sewn into their shirts.

Moldova coach Ion Caras said: "The whole world regretted and bemoaned the loss of Diana. We express our shock and sense of loss and grief for Diana."

In the absence of the injured Alan Shearer and Freddy Sheringham, England will look to controversial Arsenal striker Ian Wright and Les Ferdinand of North London rivals Spurs to score the goals against a Moldovan side which has so far failed to record a single point.

Paul Gascoigne of Rangers and David Beckham of Manchester United are the men to pull the strings in midfield.

Wins for both Italy and England will set the stage perfectly for a fiery night in Rome on October 11 which will decide who goes to France and who has either to sweat on a playoff or grab a finals berth as the second-placed team with the best record in the European qualifying competition.

In Group One, third-placed Croatia travel to second-placed Denmark hoping to jump to the head of the standings ahead of current leaders Greece, who host the Danes next month.

Norway are already through in Group Three, while Finland, Hungary and Switzerland are out to snatch second place, which will

mean a playoff for possible backdoor entry into the finals.

Hungary now face Azerbaijan while Norway, who can at last take their foot off the accelerator, host the Swiss, surprise home losers in their last game to Finland.

Sweden have a vital home tie with Latvia in Solna as they battle to make up for lost ground in Group Four, having lost their last outing in Austria.

The Swedes are now five points behind leaders Scotland although they have a game in hand. But with three defeats to date their chances of going through are slim.

Austria can go top of the group with a win at no-hopers Belarus as Scotland do not play this week.

Group Five sees a clash of the giants as leaders Bulgaria host second-placed Russia in Sofia. The Bulgarians have to go for the win as they play their final match in Russia.

Slovakia make their final throw of the dice in Group Six as they chase Spain and Yugoslavia, whom they face in Bratislava. Euro '96 finalists the Czech Republic are out of the running.

Holland, set to qualify from Group 7 at Belgium's expense after beating their rivals last weekend, are not in action with their game against Turkey coming next month. In the group's only action this week, the Turks play in San Marino.

Romania have already gone through from Group Eight after eight straight wins. That run should continue with a home game against Iceland.

Republic of Ireland are now in the running to earn a playoff spot after their 4-2 win in Iceland, but their progress is threatened by both Lithuania and Macedonia.

Irish coach Mick McCarthy believes his men can go all the way and eventually emulate the

Jack Charlton side that did so well in 1990 in Italy.

"In terms of spirit and character, or whatever you call it, they are a bunch of stars, this lot," said McCarthy, who epitomised the Irish never say die spirit seven years ago.

A win in Lithuania on Wednesday night would clinch the runners-up spot and McCarthy said: "I desperately want these players to get there. It would be a wonderful experience for them and one they will have earned."

Berti Vogts, coach of Group Nine favourites Germany, admitted he had over-estimated his team and had learned not to follow the drab — and highly fortunate — 1-1 home draw with Portugal at the weekend.

The Germans now face Armenia and Vogts has recalled 31-year-old Schalke star Olaf Thon to win his first cap in more than three years as sweeper.

"I have opened my eyes," said Vogts referring to the poor performance against the Portuguese. "I had thought we were further on than we actually."

Missing against Armenia will be suspended pair Christian Ziege and Juergen Kohler, while usual sweeper Matthias Sammer and his Dortmund teammates Andreas Moeller and Stefan Reuter are injured.

Another Dortmund star, Lars Ricken, could win his first cap.

Former Spurs star and German skipper Jurgen Klinsmann will battle to end his record goal drought in the national side. The Sampdoria striker has not netted for the Germans in 784 minutes, or 11 months.

Neither Group leaders Ukraine nor third-placed Portugal are in action this week.

Mexico thrash N. Zealand 5-0 in U-17 World Cup

ISMAILIYA (AP) — Omar Gomez scored just before and after half time, then set up a third goal to lead Mexico to a 5-0 victory over New Zealand in a second round match of the under-17 World Cup tournament Monday.

The victory ensured that Mexico remains in contention for the second quarter-final spot from Group B along with Mali, both of whom have three points from two matches. Spain is already in with six points from two victories while winless New Zealand is out.

"The Mexican team ... deserved to win this match," said New Zealand coach Glenn Turner, adding that his team's performance was not indicative of "the standard of football in New Zealand."

The Mexicans excelled with superior co-ordination and precise passes, while the New Zealanders displayed excessive rough play including shoving and pushing that resulted in five yellow cards and 13 fouls. Mexico got one yellow card.

In the 12th minute, Ricardo Martinez was awarded a free kick outside the penalty area. He curled the ball around the wall to put it into the net.



Mali's Boubacar Guindo (number 7) tries to outrun Spanish players Juan Blas Muriel (C) and Navas Cesar Gonzales during a FIFA Under-17 World Championship match. Spain won 1-0 (Reuters photo)

The second goal came in the 31st minute when New Zealand's Peter Hendriks handled the ball outside the penalty area and Mexico was awarded a free kick again. Saul Salcedo kicked the ball through an opening in the wall into the left corner of the goal.

Ten minutes later, Mexico displayed exemplary teamwork when four long passes

resulted in the ball ending up with Omar Gomez on top of the penalty area. He made no mistake, shooting it in.

Half time was taken at 3-0. In the second minute of the second half, Gomez scored again, benefiting from beautifully set up

back-and-forth passes that ended in the New Zealand penalty area.

With New Zealand's will broken, Mexico made a final assault in the 39th minute when Edwin Santibanez headed in a scooped up pass from Gomez for the fifth goal.

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Inter to pay extra \$1.8 million for Ronaldo

CAIRO (AFP) — Inter Milan were Monday ordered to pay Barcelona an extra \$1.8 million for Brazilian striker Ronaldo.

The appeals body of FIFA, football's international governing body, rejected Inter's appeal against having to pay further compensation to the Spanish club.

The fee is in addition to the fee of approximately \$26 million that Inter paid Barcelona on Ronaldo's behalf for the player's release from his contract with the Spanish club.

The FIFA ruling, which is final, ended a long-running wrangle between the two clubs over Ronaldo's transfer.

The 20-year-old Brazilian international scored 47 goals in 49 league and Cup matches for the Catalan club last season.

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Eight homeless Israelis request asylum on Palestinian territory

JERICHO (AFP) — Eight homeless Israelis who have asked for political asylum from the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) are being given red carpet treatment in the autonomous Palestinian city of Jericho.

Including a baby, they are being housed free in the Jerusalem Hotel here, and say 120 more would like to join them from Israel.

The eight are Sephardic Jewish immigrants from Morocco, Tunisia and Iran, who claim they were subject to discrimination in Israel.

In July, they were among a group which took over publicly-owned apartments in protest at the high level of rents in Israel, part of a housing crisis which the left-wing opposition says affects 100,000 families.

Three of them, who threatened to commit suicide by

means of grenades if the government did not house them, said they were shocked by the violent methods employed by the authorities to evict them and turned to the Palestinians.

Three of them were welcomed in Jericho last Thursday, and another five have since joined them, giving a small propaganda coup to the Palestinians against the government of Benjamin Netanyahu.

"The Palestinians are looking after us very well," said Shlomo Buzit, 29, a religious Jew who installs alarm systems for a living. "They give us nappies [diapers] for the children and even kosher food which they have sent from Jerusalem."

Mr. Buzit said they had free use of the hotel swimming pool and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's security chief, Jibril Rajub,

telephoned them every day to make sure they lacked nothing.

In the meantime, they organise press conferences and talk to members of the Israeli opposition to try to win sympathy for their situation.

They bitterly criticise Mr. Netanyahu's policies, despite having voted for him in the May 1996 elections. "I stuck up posters for Likud [Netanyahu's party] before the elections. But the government has betrayed me by taking no interest in the problems of the underprivileged," Mr. Buzit said.

The squatters said they were disillusioned and wanted to return to their home countries, or even take Palestinian nationality.

Mr. Buzit said the Jericho authorities "understand us," but Palestinian officials, while pleased to have a stick with which to beat Mr. Netanyahu, are not rushing to grant the requested political asylum.

"For the moment, they are being welcomed as guests of the PNA in the territories under its control," Saeb Erekat told Agence France Presse.

Meanwhile, the people of Jericho are happy to have them stay.

"With these homeless families, we can say 'that is what Israeli society is like'," commented Assad Gharouf, 67, as he sat in a city cafe.

"The Zionist movement has deceived them," added his companion, Jamal Abu Yaid. "If they want to live here, they are welcome."

Mother Teresa's order defends funeral pomp

She would certainly not want us to be spending all this time, energy and money on her — Canny

CALCUTTA (R) — Mother Teresa's religious order Monday defended the military pomp planned for her funeral later this week, but added that the austere nun might have frowned on the attention being lavished on her last rites.

The Missionaries of Charity reassured sceptics that amid the sea of officials and VIPs, the distressed and the poor who earned her worldwide fame would also join her funeral procession Saturday.

India's cabinet decided to accord military honours usually reserved for national leaders at the funeral of the missionary, who died Friday of a heart attack at the age of 87.

"The honour is being given by the nation to a person so (much) loved. This is given as a national honour. So we accept it," said Monsignor Francis Gomes, the vicar-general of the Archdiocese of Calcutta.

Asked if the missionary who preached love and compassion would have approved of the military honours in her funeral, Bill Canny, a spokesman for the order, said: "They (the order) would not have agreed if they were not comfortable."

"We will retain the traditional burial, last rites and funeral mass," he said.

Mr. Gomes and Mr. Canny were speaking at a news conference at the St Thomas's Church in Calcutta, where the body of Mother Teresa, kept in a glass case, was being

Hillary Clinton to lead U.S. delegation

WASHINGTON (AFP) — First Lady Hillary Clinton will lead the U.S. delegation to Mother Teresa's funeral service Saturday in Calcutta, the White House announced Monday. "The first lady is almost a natural choice," said spokesman Michael McCurry, noting the past "association" between Mrs. Clinton and Mother Teresa. Mrs. Clinton and Mother Teresa met in Washington to dedicate the Mother Teresa Home in June 1995. No other details on Mrs. Clinton's trip were immediately available.

thronged for a second day by thousands of mourners carrying wreaths and flowers.

Mr. Canny, answering a question on the expenditure incurred on the funeral, said the nun may not have approved of what her aides did since her death.

"I would say mother... would probably be scolding us for the way we behaved, but we know she will be smiling and blessing us," he said. "She would certainly not want us to be spending all this time, energy and money on her."

On Saturday, Mother Teresa's coffin will be draped with the Indian flag in saffron, white and green, placed on a gun carriage and taken with military escort 3 kilometres from the church to the 12,000-seat Netaji indoor stadium. "The procession will include those people that mother has dedicated her life's work to, the sick, the handicapped, the leprosy-afflicted, etc.," the Missionaries of Charity said in a statement.

Hindu, Sikh and Muslim representatives will join the funeral in honour of the nun who worked for the poor without religious bias, Mr. Canny said.

I am not sure of the exact number," said Mr. Canny, when asked if there would be a 21-gun salute similar to those at the funerals of national leaders.

The body of the nun will be buried in a private ritual in Mother House, a dull grey building on a narrow alley in the congested quarter of Calcutta from where Mother Teresa commanded an organisation operating in more than 100 countries.

The two and a half hour long funeral mass will be conducted by a papal delegation from the Vatican, led by Cardinal Simon Lourduswamy. Mr. Gomes said, Calcutta's Archbishop Henry D'Souza will be on stand-by in case the cardinal has health problems.

The army will take charge of Mother Teresa's body at 7 a.m. Thursday and will escort the body from the St Thomas Church at 9 a.m. Saturday to the Netaji indoor stadium, where the service will begin.

Saudi asks U.S. to extradite bombing suspect

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia has asked the United States to extradite a Saudi suspected of involvement in a 1996 bombing that killed 19 American servicemen, the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

The request was made by Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Washington, Prince Bandar Ben Sultan, the agency said late Monday.

Prince Bandar said the investigation into the blast in the eastern city of Khobar was continuing and asked the United States to extradite Saudi citizen Hani Al Sayegh to his country, the agency said.

"The kingdom does not accuse nor absolve anybody of involvement in the cowardly terrorist bombing until the concerned Saudi security authorities have the full facts of the incident," Saudi Arabia "continues to cooperate with the United States government in the interest of this case which is important to both countries," Prince Bandar was quoted as saying.

The U.S. Justice Department said Monday that it was dropping charges against Al Sayegh because of a lack of evidence and was considering extraditing him to Saudi Arabia.

Al Sayegh reneged on a deal to tell U.S. authorities all he knew about the Khobar towers bombing and plead guilty to a separate 1994-95 conspiracy, never carried out, to kill Americans in Saudi Arabia.

At the time he was in custody in Canada fighting deportation to Saudi Arabia. The 28-year-old Shiite Muslim says he has been involved in political protests against the Saudi ruling family and fears he will be executed if returned there.

Al Sayegh's lawyers claim he had nothing to do with the June 19 bombing of Khobar towers, a dormitory housing U.S. forces.

The Saudis contend Al Sayegh drove a car that signalled the bomb-laden truck when to pull up beside the Khobar complex.

The U.S. has said it would consider sending Al Sayegh to Saudi Arabia if it provides sufficient evidence of his involvement in the Khobar bombing.

Such extradition is provided for in last year's anti-terrorism act.

Al Sayegh's wife and two children live in Saudi Arabia.



I SHALL BE SECURE: A recent undated photo of a Latin inscription in a mosaic where Israeli archaeologists believe a Roman governor held the hearing of the case against St. Paul almost 2,000 years ago, when he was imprisoned from 58 to 60 A.D. Archaeologists have uncovered the Roman government complex from the start of the first century A.D. to the middle of the third century A.D., including one room with the mosaic which served as a bureau responsible for internal security. The inscription which reads "... ADIVORIB OFFICI CUSTODIAR" translates "... I came to this office - I shall be secure" (Reuters photo)

German police raid mosques, Islamist centres after killings

AUGSBURG (AFP) — German police searched mosques and Islamist centres in four cities Tuesday in a manhunt to track down an Islamist leader after the murder of three people, police said.

Police raided offices of the federation of Islamists Associations and Communities (ICCB) in Augsburg, Berlin, Cologne and Duesseldorf.

A joint statement issued by the police and the public prosecutor's office said domestic intelligence considered the federation preaching jihad (holy war).

Police in the southern city of Augsburg said the federation was racked by internal conflicts which resulted in serious violence after the death in May 1995 of its

Chairman Cemalettin Kaplan, alias "Khomeini of Cologne".

During Friday prayers in Augsburg in early 1996 death threats were said to have been issued against a Berlin doctor, a former ICCB militant, who had distanced himself from the ICCB, police said. The 29-year-old physician, who lived near Augsburg between 1986 and 1989, was shot to death by a commando in May this year.

The killing of a 56-year-old Turkish businessman at Salzgitter in March last year and the death of a 31-year-old relative of the incumbent ICCB leader in Duesseldorf in June last year were also linked to the ICCB. Both were shot by gunmen.

The ICCB was founded in Cologne in 1984 and claims

a membership in Germany of 3,000, according to officials.

The federation claims to represent "the religious, social, legal and cultural interests" of its members and promotes the opening of new mosques, Islamic schools and cultural centres.

The domestic intelligence agency of the southern state of Bavaria said the federation was a fundamentalist organisation which was preaching holy war and branding democracy as the "order of disbelievers" manipulated by Jews.

Its prime goal was the overthrow of Turkey's secular government and its replacement by an Islamist dictatorship, the regional intelligence agency in the deeply Catholic southern state found.

Kinkel says no European Union membership for Turkey soon

ANKARA (R) — German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said in comments published on Tuesday that Turkey has no chance of realising its long-held ambitions to join the European Union (EU) soon.

"Turkey has had a place reserved for it on the European train since 1963 but there is no chance of it getting on the train in the near future," he told Turkey's Yeni Yuzul daily in an interview. Ankara became an associate member of the European Economic Community in 1963 and sealed a customs

union with the EU in 1995 but it has seen Eastern European nations leap frog it in the queue for full membership.

"Turkey has to do its domestic chores," Mr. Kinkel said. "The first of these are human rights, the Kurdish problem and economic problems," he said. A German Foreign Ministry spokesman in Bonn said the comments accurately reflected Mr. Kinkel's views.

Turkey is struggling under inflation of more than 80 per cent and gaping deficits. Its troops are fighting a 13-year-

old battle against Kurdish rebels in which human rights violations are often alleged. Mr. Kinkel paid a stormy visit to Turkey in March which was nearly cancelled after then Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan said Europeans should "bow their heads" in shame because of what he said was the one-sided implementation of the Customs Union.

millions of dollars of EU aid to help Turkey to adjust to the Customs Union have been blocked due to concerns over Ankara's human rights record.

Israel approves pact legalising Vatican status in Holy Land

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli government has ratified an agreement legalising the Vatican's status in the Holy Land for the first time, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

The government approved the agreement Monday after four years of negotiations launched when Israel and the Vatican recognised each other on December 30, 1993, ministry spokesman Dori Goren said.

The agreement will allow the Vatican to legally register its churches and institutions operating in Israel, giving them greater autonomy, Mr. Goren said. He said the list of church institutions ran to 30 pages.

"This is the first time that the legal status of the Roman Catholic Church has been recognised in the Holy Land for 500 years," Mr. Goren said.

"Before, under the Ottomans, the British and then Israelis after 1948, the church was recognised de facto but not de jure," he said.

Israeli cousins invite Albright to a get-together with 'roots'

KFAR RUPPIN (AFP) — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's long-lost Israeli relatives invited her Tuesday to visit their kibbutz during her peace mission this week, but U.S. diplomats said she will not have the time.

"If she's interested in her roots, she'll find them here in the Kfar Ruppin Kibbutz," said Haim Koebel, 75, who said he is a first cousin to Ms. Albright.

"I want to introduce her to my family, show her our kibbutz and stable and take a walk along the Jordanian border which is only three kilometres from the house," Mr. Koebel told AFP.

Ms. Albright was scheduled to arrive in Israel Wednesday for three days of talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders and a series of meetings with the Israeli and Palestinian public designed to breathe life back into the peace process.

She then heads off to visit Arab states in the region.

A spokesman at the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv told AFP that Ms. Albright's "schedule is packed with diplomatic meetings" and that she did not have time to visit areas beyond planned stays in Jerusalem

and the Palestinian territories.

Mr. Koebel said he would stay home rather than try to meet the woman whose Jewish roots and connection to his family only became known earlier this year.

"I trust the media to make my invitation known," he said. Ms. Albright was born in Prague in 1937 but fled the country in 1939 with her father Josef Koebel, a Czech diplomat, to escape Nazi persecution. They ultimately settled in the United States.

It was only after becoming secretary of state early this year and after an expose published in the Washington Post that Ms. Albright said she had learned her father had been Jewish and converted to Catholicism.

Mr. Koebel said he had been unaware of his family ties to the U.S. official until she visited her father's home town in the Czech republic last week and he learned in the press of her history.

"When I learned her maiden name, I realised that she was part of my family," he said.



Paparazzi booed Stallone, called him a 'clown'

ROME (AFP) — Italian paparazzi photographers booed actor Sylvester Stallone and called him a "clown" when he inaugurated work here on a new Planet Hollywood theme restaurant, which will open in December. As fans applauded Stallone, a group of paparazzi took no photographs but instead waved a placard reading: "We are photographers in the service of information, not murderers." They then chanted: "Clown, Clown," in the incident Monday.

France's 'Call to Arms' becomes 'Call To Dream'

PARIS (AFP) — A dance version of France's national anthem, the Marseillaise, is sparking angry protests from older generations who believe it should be treated with more respect, radio stations said Tuesday. Dressed in military uniforms, Yannick Noah has recorded the reworking of the revolutionary hymn, replacing the rousing "Call To Arms" chorus with the less bellicose "Call To Dream."

Ali and wife in Chicago to raise awareness of Parkinson's disease

CHICAGO (AFP) — Boxing legend Muhammad Ali and his wife Lonnie appealed here Monday for increased public awareness of Parkinson's disease and stepped-up efforts to find a cure to combat the degenerative brain disorder. "Our hope is to draw attention to the daily struggle of the average Parkinson's patient and caregiver as they work together each day to try and build more quality into their lives," Lonnie Ali said. She insisted that the 55-year-old former world heavyweight champion and other Parkinson's patients were not mentally handicapped and were able to lead productive lives.

Clinton wears Afro wig

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton wore an Afro wig on stage, but unfortunately we won't be seeing pictures of this any time soon. It happened at a party for the White House press corps at the close of the president's three-week vacation at Martha's Vineyard, the Washington Post said. Clinton went on stage to bid his farewell during the playing of the 70s hit "We Are Family," when a member of "The Boogies" crept up behind him and plopped on his head an oversized Afro wig the musical group had used in the number.

Julio Iglesias father again at 53

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Spanish crooner Julio Iglesias is father again at 53. His 31-year-old Dutch girlfriend Miranda Rijnsburger gave birth Sunday to a Michael Alexander on Sunday. "Words cannot express the joy and love I feel for such a wonderful gift," Iglesias said Monday in a press release. Iglesias has three other "gifts," all in his twenties, from his previous marriage to Isabel Preiser.

Ice-T wants girl for co-star

WASHINGTON (AFP) — For rap artist Ice-T being a television actor is not all cut out to be. He complains there are no girls for his part as an ex-con who helps the FBI in NBC's "The Shield" opening next month. "They've got to let me have a girl," the singer said. Entertainment Weekly has been doing this for years, and I cannot see the arm's reach of a girl in script. "What's up with that?"



Members of Calcutta's Citizen Forum clean a slum area Tuesday as their way of paying tribute to Mother Teresa. The 87-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner died on Friday of a heart attack after seven decades of service for the down-trodden of Calcutta (Reuters photo)

Egypt says no to Israel

Volume 22 Number 6633

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(Continued)